

12th Annual Angus Bull Sale

## March 4,

Sutherlin Farms Feedlot • Stevensville, MT Sale begins at 1PM Mountain Time • Lunch served at Noon

**Selling 50+ Yearling Angus Bulls** 

50+ Fancy No Brand Commercial Angus Heifers

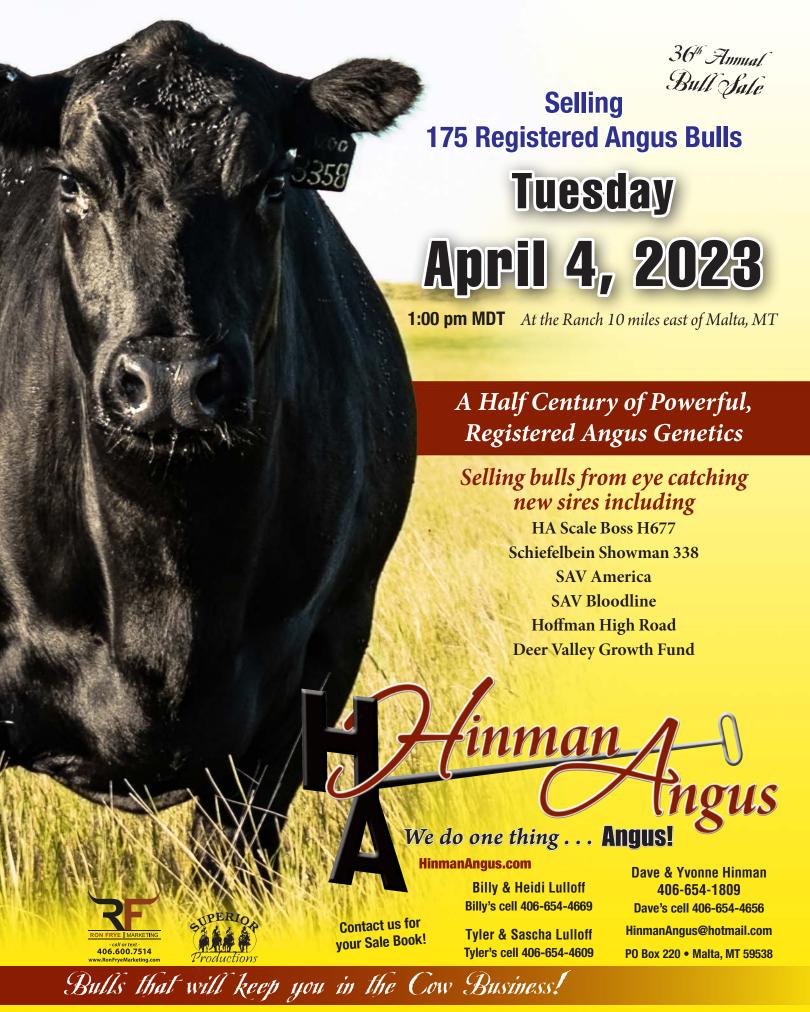
Chad, Lacey & Cayden Sutherlin Chad 406-360-1875 Lacey 406-544-0043

406/207-9176 Cody, Mindy, Tripp & Jett Sutherlin

406/360-1246

**Loren & Dorothy Brubaker** Loren 406-360-1246 Dorothy 406-777-3503

WWW.BULLSOFTHEBITTERROOT.COM



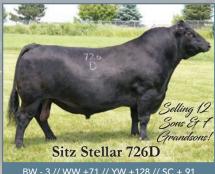


#### 15TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 • 1pm Bear Paw Livestock, Chinook, MT

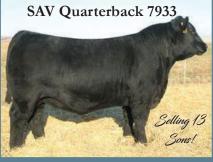


Clear Creek Authentic 284 with his 13 year old Pathfinder dam!! BW 93 // 205WT 835 // WR 123 DAMS NR 10 @ 109 // Sale Feature on March 6th!



BW -.3 // WW +/1 // YW +128 // SC +.91 M +18 // RE +.58 // \$M +60 // \$B +140 // \$C +242 The Complete Package: Maternal, Growth, Carcass, Soundness, & Eye Appeal!!

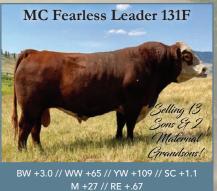




BW +4.6 // WW +97 // YW +159 // SC +1.07 M +20 // RE +1.09 // \$M +74 // \$B +150 // \$C +269



BW +.7 // WW +68 // YW +122 // SC +1.09 M +28 // RE +.74 // \$M +76 // \$B 164 // \$C +289



70 Angus Yearling Bulls, 15 Hereford Yearling Bulls, 4 Registered Angus Replacement Heifers, 40 F1 Baldy Replacement Heifers

#### CLEAR CREEK ANGUS

Teddy & Sara Crowley
34075 Clear Creek Road
Chinook, MT 59523
H: (406) 395-4962, C: (406) 399-0403
ccangus@itstriangle.com
www.ClearCreekAngus.com

#### WEAVER HEREFORDS

Don & Dolly Weaver 28108 Warrick Road Big Sandy, MT 59520 (406) 386-2244 dwhrfrd@yahoo.com www.WeaverHerefords.com



#### JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL

In 2023, Sitz Angus is celebrating 100 years of serving cattleman with an unwavering commitment to providing Angus seedstock with an emphasis on maternal strength and producer profitability.

While pursuing the American dream, Will and Freida Sitz purchased their first registered Angus cattle in 1923. Four generations of the Sitz family, enduring challenges along the way, have grown and cultivated Sitz Angus into what it is today.



21st Annual Spring Bull Sale

March 8, 2023 12:30 PM (MST)

At the Ranch, Dillon, MT 300+ Yearling, PAP-Tested Angus Bulls 200 Open Commercial Replacement Females

Selling sons of SITZ Accomplishment 720F, SITZ Incentive 704H, SITZ Intuition, SITZ Logo 8148, SITZ Resilient 10208, SITZ Stellar 726D, SITZ Verdict 744H, BAR Dynamic, Hoffman Thedford, Myers Fair-N-Square, Spring Cove Crossfire



SITZ Intuition 741K Reg: 20288133 S: SITZ Intuition MGS: Connealy Final Product CED 7 BW 1.3 WW 85 YW 141 SC 0.72 Milk 30 CW 61 Marb 0.54 REA 0.58 \$M 76 \$B 134 \$C 250



SITZ Dynamic 582K Reg: 20303015 S: B A R Dynamic MGS: KM Broken Bow 002 CED 10 BW -0.1 WW 75 YW 139 SC 0.56 Milk 29 CW 48 Marb 1.24 REA 0.60 \$M 71 \$B 171 \$C 293



SITZ Thedford 692K Reg: 20293029 S: Hoffman Thedford MGS: SITZ Stellar 726D CED 12 BW -0.8 WW 76 YW 131 SC 1.78 Milk 28 CW 70 Marb 0.81 REA 0.64 \$M 86 \$B 178 \$C 317



**SITZ Logo 644K** Reg: 20288061 S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: BUBS Southern Charm AA31 CED 10 BW 0.4 WW 92 YW 161 SC 1.29 Milk 23 CW 71 Marb 0.51 REA 0.66 \$M 75 \$B 153 \$C 273



SITZ Logo 539K Reg: 20303039 S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: SITZ Upward 9873 CED 8 BW 0.2 WW 76 YW 132 SC 0.88 Milk 31 CW 55 Marb 0.71 REA 0.57 \$M 85 \$B 143 \$C 270



SITZ Dynamic 574K Reg: 20303045 S: B A R Dynamic MGS: Baldridge Next Step Y108 CED 7 BW 2.0 WW 80 YW 156 SC 1.55 Milk 33 CW 67 Marb 0.86 REA 0.82 \$M 73 \$B 180 \$C 306



SITZ Intuition 726K Reg: 20288122 S: SITZ Intuition MGS: Mohnen Impressive 1093 CED 8 BW 0.1 WW 83 YW 148 SC -0.18 Milk 26 CW 68 Marb 0.84 REA 0.58 \$M 90 \$B 168 \$C 308



SITZ JLS Logo 616K Reg: 20288037 S: SITZ Logo 8148 MGS: Connealy Dry Valley CED 5 BW 1.5 WW 89 YW 140 SC 1.68 Milk 25 CW 65 Marb 0.99 REA 0.58 \$M 99 \$B 158 \$C 304



SITZ JLS Resilient 747K Reg: 20307957 S: SITZ Resilient 10208 MGS: Summitcrest Complete IP55 CED 8 BW 0.1 WW 74 YW 125 SC 0.85 Milk 31 CW 47 Marb 0.88 REA 0.75 \$M 112 \$B 143 \$C 297

Jim Sitz (406) 683-5277 SitzAngus@gmail.com Bob Sitz (406) 581-6448 SitzAngusRanch@gmail.com Joe Jones (208) 670-2364 Joe Jones@SitzAngus.com

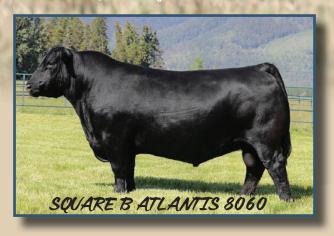
# Where & MATTERNAL Meet

### FEBRUARY 4, 2023 @ 1PM MST

SWIFT RIVER RANCH BILLINGS, MONTANA

Annual Sale
Offering: 80 Bulls
40 + YEARLING BULLS
40 + AGE ADVANTAGE BULLS

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KG SOLUTION 0018 HA OUTSIDE 3008 HA EVER LADY 1575 HA COWBOY UP 5405

SITZ UPWARD 307R HA BLACKCAP LADY 1602

HA BLACKCAP LADY 5515

SITZ TRAVELER 8180 SAV FINAL ANSWER 0035 SAV EMULOUS 8145

HA LASS 3303

HA IMAGE MAKER 0415

HA LASS 4206

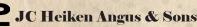
CED +13 BW -1.0 WW +72 YW +131 SC +1.04 MILK +26 MARB +.18 RE +.56 \$W+69 \$F+82 \$B+111

TO ORDER SEMEN CONTACT: PAUL DODDRIDGE 406-285-3660 OR CODY JACKSON 406-580-7366, CODY@KGRANCH.COM

**OWNED BY:** 











Our cover photo is one of the runner-up photos from the 2020 Photo Contest. Thanks Amanda Hartman for this great shot!



#### ~ Table of Contents

The Montana Angus News is the official publication of the Montana Angus Association and is available to anyone interested in Montana's Angus cattle. However, advertising is restricted to those raising Angus cattle in the state, those consigning Angus bulls to Midland Bull Test or people servicing cattlemen with their business located in Montana.

Since the magazine is not subject to subscriptions, the only feasible way it can be mailed is at bulk rate; therefore, advertising for events scheduled within 18 days of publication will be accepted only at the advertisers risk, and this publication will assume no financial responsibility for distribution on its entire circulation prior to that time.

Finally, the information contained is from sources deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed.

For details on subscriptions and advertising please contact:

Jesse Thompson 406.450.3429 PO Box 25 • Whitlash, MT 59545 montanaangusnews@mtangus.org



Printing: Ballyhoo Printing • Lewistown, MT www.BallyhooPrinting.com reetings Readers!

This January weather has been so nice that it almost makes you forget about the less than desirable weather we had last fall...ALMOST! None the less, it's been really nice to see the 30's again. I'm guessing that those who are calving right now are equally excited about the weather. Let's all hope and pray that we have a moisture filled spring.

Don't forget that we'll be doing our annual calving photo contest for the March/April Montana Angus News Issue. Whoever sends in the best photo will get bragging rights

for a year and will get their photo on the cover. There is no limit to the number of photos you can send in but there are a few guidelines: high resolution photos only and the photos must be of black Angus cattle from Montana. Photos can be emailed directly to



me by the March magazine deadline which is February 8th so don't delay!

Thank you to all the buyers, bidders, volunteers, and our NILE Female Sale manager, Ron Frye, for another successful female sale in October! In November, Dave HInman completed his time on the AAA Board of Directors.

I've included a history piece in this magazine so I hope you'll enjoy a little bit of Montana Angus Association history about the past winners of the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award.

Happy Trails,

Jesse Thompson Editor, Montana Angus News montanaangusnews@mtangus.org 406.450.3429



#### ONLY GREAT COWS MAKE GREAT HERD BULLS

2023 Van Dyke Angus Ranch "Cattlemen's Advantage" Bull Sale!

#### February 23, 2023 • Manhattan, MT 150 Yearling Bulls Sell!

VDAR Gallatin 7586

#### **VDAR Cedar Wind 5126**



\$F **CED BW** YW SC **MILK** \$W -1.4 +69 +112 +2.07 +68 +14 +22 +70

#### VDAR Sonny Boy 1194



CED	BW	ww	YW	SC	MILK	\$W	\$F
+9	+2.2	+56	+108	+.77	+29	+50	+86

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Lee Van Dyke 406-579-2585 lvandyke@vdar.com

Tom Wulff 406-580-1606 twulff@vdar.com

Tim Crabtree 406-579-0798

Angus Ranch

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**CED** BW ww YW SC **MILK** \$W \$F +9 +56 +106 +.07 +32 +54 +2.0 +71

#### **VDAR MAGA 7190**

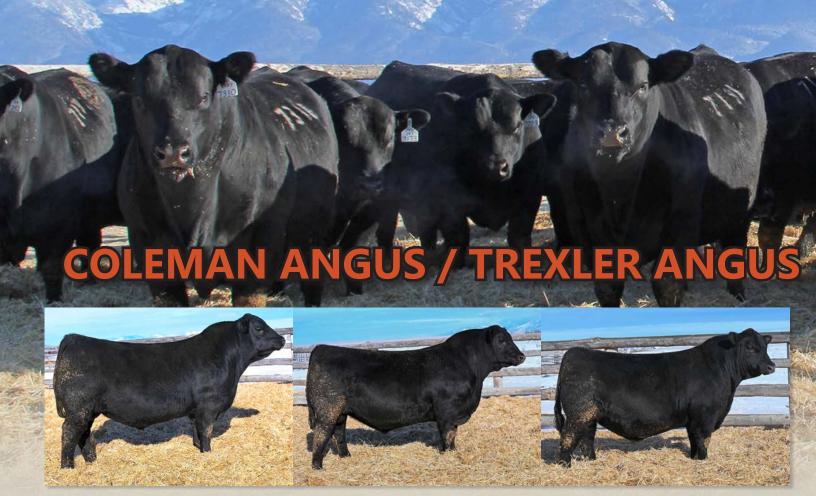


ww YW **CED** BW SC MILK \$W \$F +77 +137 +1.40 +18 +3 +3.4 +57 +96

**OUR MISSION: Provide breeding stock that increases our customers'** profitability! We demand our cowherd calve in a 42-day season without exception. This one management strategy dictates that our cowherd become highly UNIFORM, FERTILE & FUNCTIONAL! These factors allow our customers to add significant VALUE to their programs!

The priorities in our breeding program are as follows, 42-day calving season, FOOT and LEG structure, great udder quality and functionally

efficient cattle! Nothing else matters if these traits aren't exceptional!



#### **COLEMAN NORTH COUNTRY 1424**

Reg. 20500590 Sire: Coleman Rock 7200
Dam: Lawsons Chloe C815 MGS: SAV Renown 3439
CED: 3 BW: 1.3 WW: 83 YW: 143 SC: 1.31 Milk: 28
REA: .83 \$W: 80 \$M: 80 Act BW: 87 Adj WW: 878

#### **COLEMAN EASY DECISION 1539**

Reg. 20503415 Sire: Coleman Rock 7200

Dam: Coleman Donna 7386 MGS: Coleman Charlo 0256

CED: 15 BW: -3.0 WW: 74 YW: 126 SC: 1.64 Milk: 29

REA: .15 \$W: 77 \$M: 88 Act BW: 73 Adj WW: 763

#### **COLEMAN ACCOUNTABLE 2147**

Reg. 20512818 Sire: Sitz Accomplishment 720F Dam: Coleman Donna 7252 MGS: NCC Prestige 317 736K CED: 4 BW: 3.1 WW: 79 YW: 144 SC: 1.78 Milk: 28 REA: .45 \$W: 64 \$M: 65 Act BW: 97 Adj WW: 850

#### Performance Tested

BULL SALE 2.21.23

1 PM MST | FIVE VALLEY LIVESTOCK MISSOULA, MONTANA

Selling 200 BULLS | 95 18 month old & 105 Big Stout Yearling Bulls



#### **COLEMAN ARROWHEAD 235**

Reg. 20503506 Sire: Coleman Charlo 0256 Dam: Coleman Chloe 9275 MGS: Coleman Bravo 6313 CED: 4 BW: 2.6 WW: 74 YW: 130 SC: 1.43 Milk: 22 REA: .81 \$W: 67 \$M: 71 Act BW: 94 Adj WW: 876

#### **COLEMAN BIG COUNTRY 260**

Reg. 20503511 Sire: SAV Renown 3439

Dam: Coleman Donna 5247 MGS: Coleman Charlo 0256

CED: 3 BW: 2.2 WW: 64 YW: 117 SC: .98 Milk: 23

REA: .65 \$W: 59 \$M: 71 Act BW: 96 Adj WW: 874

#### **COLEMAN TRIUMPH 2212**

Reg. 20503495 Sire: Coleman Triumph 9145
Dam: Coleman Abigale 686 MGS: Connealy Onward
CED: 11 BW: .1 WW: 56 YW: 100 SC: .40 Milk: 28
REA: .55 \$W: 60 \$M: 87 Act BW: 84 Adj WW: 858



SALE UPDATES WWW.COLEMANANGUS.COM F







#### **COLEMAN SOUTH AMERICA 271**

Reg. 20503516 Sire: South America Dam: Coleman Donna 5247 MGS: Coleman Charlo 0256 CED: 8 BW: 1.4 WW: 66 YW: 116 SC: .96 Milk: 20 REA: .61 \$W: 60 \$M: 68 Act BW: 88 Adj WW: 878

#### **COLEMAN SOUTH AMERICA 2169**

Reg. 20503488 Sire: South America Dam: Coleman Donna 9101 MGS: Wulffs EXT 6106 CED: 6 BW: 1.2 WW: 77 YW: 131 SC: .93 Milk: 26 REA: .61 \$W: 70 \$M: 63 Act BW: 90 Adj WW: 935

#### **COLEMAN SOUTH AMERICA 269**

Reg. 20503514 Sire: South America Dam: Coleman Donna 5247 MGS: Coleman Charlo 0256 CED: 8 BW: 1.4 WW: 66 YW: 116 SC: 1.06 Milk: 20 REA: .61 \$W: 60 \$M: 65 Act BW: 92. Adj WW: 892

#### **SIRES REPRESENTED:**

Coleman ROCK 7200 Selling 20 Sons Coleman TRIUMPH 9145 Selling 19 Sons **SOUTH AMERICA** Selling 21 Sons

Coleman BRAVO 6313 Selling 40 Sons / Grandsons Coleman CHARLO 0256 Selling 5 Sons/Grandsons SAV RESOURCE Selling 27 Sons/Grandsons SAV RENOVATION 6822 Selling 8 Sons/Grandsons

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- Guarantee
- Tested Free of PI-BVD
- Free Delivery anywhere in continental US



#### **COLEMAN KELCE 226**

Reg. 20503502 Sire: Coleman Charlo 0256 Dam: Coleman Chloe 9275 MGS: Coleman Bravo 6313 Dam: Coleman Chloe 9275 MGS: Coleman Bravo 6313 CED: 4 BW: 2.6 WW: 74 YW: 130 SC: 1.43 Milk: 22 REA: .81 \$W: 67 \$M: 71 Act BW: 78 Adj WW: 788

#### **COLEMAN MAHOMES 2216**

Reg. 20503498 Sire: Coleman Charlo 0256 CED: 4 BW: 2.6 WW: 74 YW: 130 SC: 1.29 Milk: 22 REA: .81 \$W: 67 \$M: 71 Act BW: 88 Adj WW: 898

#### **COLEMAN BELOW ZERO 2106**

Reg. 20512901 Sire: Sitz Stellar 726D Dam: Coleman Donna 0153 MGS: Coleman Charlo 0256 CED: 9 BW: -1.4 WW: 71 YW: 127 SC: .95 Milk: 21 REA: .65 \$W: 62 \$M: 72 ACT BW: 70 Adj WW: 831

COLEMAN ANGUS | Larry & Dee Coleman 406-644-2697 | Jeremy & Jenny Haag 406.833.0117 colemanangus@blackfoot.net

TREXLER ANGUS | Larry & Peggy Trexler 406-363-8818 • skalcreek@msn.com

# President's Message



Greetings from Eastern Montana. It's that time of year when we reflect back on the previous year and look forward to the next. 2022 was a trial for many of us, with late Spring blizzards, followed by another dry summer for much of Montana. Then to top it off Winter showed up early and with a vengeance.

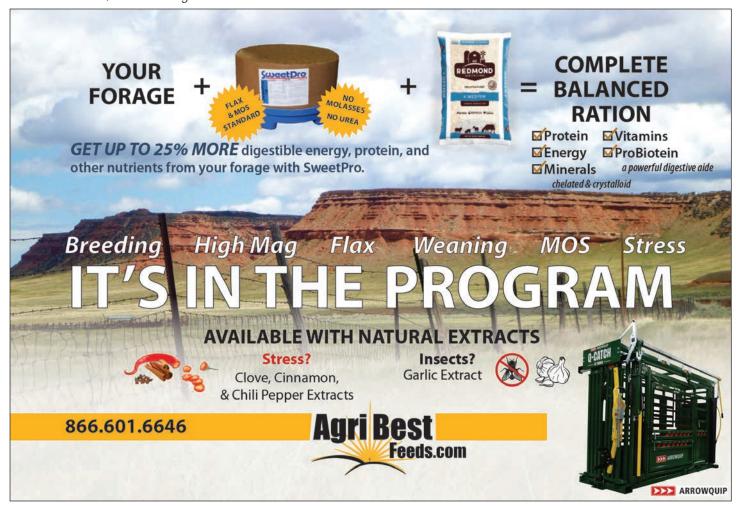
On a positive note, the Fall sales were exceptionally good and the calf market appears to be strengthening going into the next year. Most of the state has been blessed with plentiful winter moisture. I am very optimistic that 2023 is shaping up to be a very good year for Montana cattle producers!

The Montana Angus board recently had our annual planning meeting where we review the previous year, and chart out what we feel will be the best strategies for the upcoming year. Always staying focused on those topics we feel will best benefit Montana breeders and the Angus industry as a whole. It was a good meeting with lots of topics discussed. We currently have an excellent Montana board and are very well represented nationally by Darrell Stevenson on the American Angus board.

I really do hope that all of you share my optimism for 2023. I foresee green pastures, high cattle prices, and an outstanding year for Angus producers especially here in Montana.

Best Wishes.

Chad Denowh, Montana Angus Association President



#### ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

## Monday

## **FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

1:00 PM • DILLON, MONTANA DILLON LIVESTOCK AUCTION













January/February 2023

Selling...

125 Yearling & Long Yearling Bulls

11 Registered Heifers

40 Commercial Heifers

PAP and Fertility Tested First Breeding Season Guarantee Angus GS Tested



**Reference Sires:** WXW Timberline • Circle L Silverbow • Circle L Boone • AAR Essential Circle L Gusto • Circle L Centennial • Circle L Gus • Tehama Patriarch

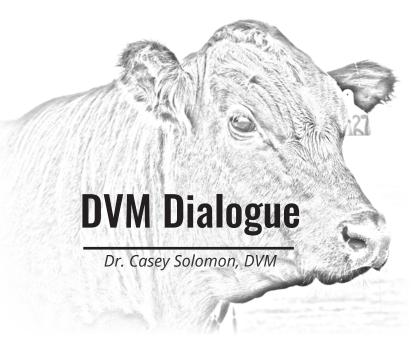
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Increase Your Bottom Line!



2022 was another year for the record books. Weather patterns that weren't conducive to successful agriculture, cattle markets that weren't all that we had hoped for, and another large sell-off of the good maternal Montana cow herd.

As we enter another production year, heading toward calving 2023, I pray we can see things turn around to a more positive tone and get back on our feet.

As I sit here writing this article, up north is snow covered with sunshine in the day and fog overnight and into the early morning. A pattern I hope continues, as it usually is a strong predictor for a positive moisture pattern and good crop outlook. Out south water is running, reservoirs and dry creek beds are filling and there is MUD for the first time in a few years. Another optimistic sign for a change in the weather pattern. Oh, how I hope it will continue – for us and for all those in agriculture near and far.

As optimism seems to be blooming, I thought I'd look at what's coming next in our next production season and try to address a few things that I hope to be helpful in the months ahead.

A strong foundation heading into calving is the key to success.

Preparation makes all the difference.

#### Preparing the Mother Cow Herd

There are three important ways that a producer can influence calving. Nutrition, Herd Health, and Reproductive Management. Of course, there is a lot of decisions encompassed within these three things and I don't have the space to cover them all. I hope to hit some high points and give some food for thought.

Body condition score heading into calving is an important metric that greatly influences the success of calving, the health and production of her calf, and her ability to breed back on time for the following production year. It takes 60-90 days (and good feed resources) to comfortably make changes to a cows' body condition score. It is important to evaluate body condition accurately and often, to give

time to make changes if necessary. A good nutritionist and accurate feed samples are invaluable when building rations to reach your goals prior to calving, especially on challenging years such as the last two or three that we've recently endured. There is no substitute for getting cows to adequate condition in the second trimester, so that they can maintain during their last trimester. It is very difficult to gain body condition the closer a cow gets to calving and it is nearly impossible to put condition on cows during their early to mid-lactation period.

Herd Health management is unique to each individual herd. There are many tools available to help producers: vaccines, laboratory diagnostics, antibiotics, dewormers and external parasite control. It is important for herds to have benchmarks for what they consider an average year, when things deviate from what they consider normal – early intervention often prevents large scale outbreaks.

#### For example:

- 1. How many premature calves/late term abortions do you see on an average year?
  - a. If seeing more than average, interventions would include:
    - i. Hay/Feed Testing elevated nitrates, endotoxins, & nutritional deficiencies in trace minerals and vitamins can all result in calf losses prior to term. Nutrition and herd health go hand in hand.
    - ii. Herd Health consult your veterinarian will analyze the age and condition of the cows losing calves (young vs old, thin vs adequate body condition, underlying illness or injury). Calves can be lost late term due to cows fighting on the feed ground (injury), poor BCS (unable to sustain the needs of the near term calf), infection (what is vaccine history?), breaks in biosecurity (new animals introduced to herd?, wildlife traffic?), even weather related stress! A consult allows a different set of eyes to look through the herd, identify potential threats and even collect samples to diagnose and mitigate further losses.
- 2. How many calves do you treat for pneumonia/scours/ overeating per year?
  - a. Each of these health issues can significantly affect a producers bottom line. Identifying breaks in calf health early gives producers the chance to prevent herd wide outbreaks and subsequent losses in calf performance.
  - b. My general rule of thumb during calving is to check the pairs every morning, looking at calves and cows (I like to see udders that have been nursed recently!). We get calves up and make sure they STRETCH! This is our hallmark cue for healthy vs something needing further assessment.
  - c. I find it is helpful to carry a thermometer in my pocket dirty bottoms, punky attitudes, droopy

ears, coughs - they get a temperature taken and we try to identify if they have a respiratory, digestive or orthopedic injury (or something different all together!). We make a note of the issue and treat according to standard operating procedures for each condition (I'll go over this in more detail in the next edition's article). Any treated calves get checked either that afternoon or the following morning depending on the severity of the condition.

3. I also like to develop Herd Health schedules with my producers so that we maintain a program throughout the year. If we encounter problems, we will tweak our products and schedule to improve or solve the issue.

Lastly, evaluation of calving distribution is key to maintaining your herd schedule year to year. If your calving interval is extended or skewed toward the later side of calving, early interventions will allow you to make changes heading into breeding season to catch up and regain your Reproductive Momentum. With the back to back drought

we faced in our area, many herds are dealing with a higher percentage of later calvers. It is vital that nutrition is on par for the herd, to allow the early calvers every opportunity to maintain their calving interval. Good nutrition is also essential to help later calvers catch up. In addition, trace minerals need to be provided as they are integral to uterine recovery after pregnancy and for normal hormone production and reproductive cycles. Some synchronization protocols can also benefit later calving cows and encourage them to catch back up to their normal calving window.

Until next time, I'll be praying for good moisture and lots of good green grass this spring! As we all know, there is no substitute for good spring forage for cows and calves!

## BLEVINS ANGUS RANCI

22nd Annual Production Sale

1:00 P.M. • 5 Valleys Livestock Auction • Missoula, MT www.CattleUSA.com



#### BREEDING FOR BALANCED EPDS - BIRTH TO CARCASS



SS Niagara Z29



Selling:

65 Reg. Yearling Bulls

**30** Comm. Yearling Heifers

**12** Reg. Yearling Heifers

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## Characterizing Footscores up Montana's Registered Angus Cattle Characterizing Footscores of

Research Update by Taylre Sitz

#### About the project...

From November 2021 to April 2022, our research team used the American Angus Association (AAA) Foot Scoring Guidelines to subjectively analyze claw set and foot angle on a series of Montana registered Angus herds. Over this period, we have scored 1475 yearling bulls, 992 yearling heifers, 1044 two- and three-year-old cows, and 1212 cows that are four years and older. This collaborative research project depended on working with Montana Angus producers during normally scheduled cattle working events such as pregnancy checking, scour-guarding, or taking yearling weights to take foot scores on their registered Angus cattle. The ranchers who volunteered to collaborate were contacted prior to the event and asked to provide several points of data including the American Angus Association registration numbers, tag numbers, tattoo numbers, sex, sires, diet information, and birthdates. Scoring was conducted using AAA foot scoring guidelines to determine and score the worst foot. Individual scores for claw set and foot angle were recorded, as well as which foot was chosen as the worst foot. Upon completion of the scoring, data was compiled into a spreadsheet for ranchers to submit to the AAA at their discretion and utilization for making decisions on their farm and ranch.

The AAA's foot scoring guideline system uses a nine-point scale to visually appraise two traits: claw set and foot angle. Scoring is performed for both traits on the animal's single worst foot. The ideal foot angle is a 45-degree angle at the pastern joint with appropriate toe length and heel depth (score of 5). Moving down the scale, animals become more straight or post legged while moving higher on the scale lends to animals set too far under themselves or are weak pasterned. The ideal claw set includes toes that are symmetrical, even in length and appropriately spaced. The ideal claw set is toes that are symmetrical, even in length and appropriately spaced (score of 5). Moving down the scale, animals tend to have severely divergent toes whereas moving up the scale lends to animals with scissor-type toes, or toes that are curled over themselves. Generally speaking, foot scores for both traits from 4 - 6 are indicative of animals with relatively good feet.

The AAA's foot angle and claw set expected progeny differences (EPD) were developed in 2019. Currently, the selection tools utilize the 5-9 scores for both the foot angle and claw set: there are too few scores in the 1-4 range to be included in the selection tools. As of 2022, the AAA recommends foot scoring animals annually. Cattle should be over 320 days of age to be scored, and all scoring should take place on solid, flat ground where the feet can be more easily visualized. The foot angle EPD, as defined by the AAA, is expressed in units of foot angle score, with a lower EPD being more favorable, indicating a sire will produce progeny with more ideal foot angle. The claw

set EPD, as defined by the AAA, is expressed in units of claw set score, with a lower EPD being more favorable, indicating a sire will produce progeny with more ideal claw set.

Due to the relative newness of collecting claw set and foot angle scores in Angus cattle, a primary goal of this research project was to simply characterize the data. This included using descriptive statistics to analyze the mean scores of female versus male yearling cattle, female cattle of different age classes, and progeny of the most common sire lines. Another key area of research was looking at correlations between claw set and foot angle scores and other growth type phenotypic data.

#### Results Thus Far...

#### Characterization of Montana's Registered Angus Foot Scores - Yearling bulls vs. yearling heifers (Table 1)

Table 1: Yearling Bulls & Heife Item	bulls	heifers
number of head	1475	992
foot angle score1	5.27	5.15
foot angle scores, % not 52	27.5	15.8
front vs hind <sup>3</sup>		
front, %	78.6	67.5
hind, %	21.4	32.5
claw set score <sup>1</sup>	5.54	5.34
claw set scores, % not 52	51.3	31.7
front vs hind <sup>3</sup>		
front, %	74.5	61.5
hind, %	25.5	38.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Scores based on 1-9 scale used by the American Angus Association

Claw set and foot angle records were analyzed on 1475 yearling bulls and 992 yearling heifers from Montana registered Angus producers. Yearling bulls had a 0.12 greater mean foot angle score compared to yearling heifers. Looking at animals who had foot angle scores deviating from a 5, there were 27.5% of yearling bulls versus 15.8% of yearling heifers. Yearling bulls had a 0.2 greater mean claw set score compared to yearling heifers. Animals who did not score a 5 for claw set consisted of 51.3% of yearling bulls and 31.7% of yearling heifers.

Because the AAA foot scoring guidelines ask the scorer to choose and score the worst foot, a comparison was made for the frequency of foot scored for front feet versus hind feet. This comparison was made excluding animals scoring a 5 for both claw set and foot angle because if an animal has ideal scores for both traits, it is presumed that there is no worst foot. In yearling bulls, 78.6% of the time, the foot chosen to be scored was the front foot for foot angle (21.4% hind foot). For yearling heifers, 67.5% of the time, the foot chosen to be scored was a front foot

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> percent of animals that did not score 5 (ideal score)

<sup>3</sup> data only from scores deviating from 5 (ideal score)

# I STH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

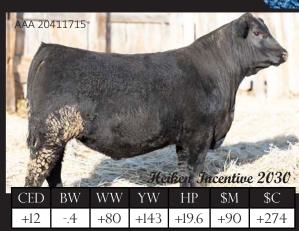






С	ED	BW	WW	YW	SC	\$W	\$C
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foot was chosen. In regards to claw set, 74.5% of the time a front foot was scored for yearling bulls (25.5% hind foot) and 61.5% for yearling heifers (38.5% hind foot).

Characterization of Montana's Registered Angus Foot Scores ~ Yearling heifers, two and three year olds, and Mature cows (Table 2)

Item	Heifer	2 & 3 yr-old	≥ 4 yr-olds
number of head	992	1044	1212
foot angle score <sup>1</sup>	5.15a	5.51b	5.8c
foot angle scores, % not 52	15.8a	45.1b	66c
front vs hind <sup>3</sup>			
front, %	67.5a	23.4b	13.9c
hind, %	32.5a	76.6b	86.1c
claw set score <sup>1</sup>	5.34a	5.48b	5.86c
claw set scores, % not 52	31.7a	42.8b	68.2c
front vs hind <sup>3</sup>			
front, %	61.5a	29.5b	22.9c
hind, %	38.5a	70.5b	77.1c

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Scores based on 1-9 scale used by the American Angus Association <sup>2</sup> percent of animals that did not score 5 (ideal score)

Comparisons were made across three different age classes of female cattle – 992 yearling heifers, 1044 two- and three-year-old cows, and 1212 cows four years of age and older. Foot angle scores increased with age, with heifers have the best foot angle scores and cows 4 years and older having the least desirable foot angle scores. An analysis of animals deviated from a score of 5 for both claw set and foot angle (scores of 5 for each trait) was performed. In addition, 15.8% of yearlings, 45.1% of two and three year olds, and 66.0% of cows 4 years of age and older did not have foot angle scores equal to 5.

Claw set scores increased with age, with heifers have the best scores and cows 4 years and older having the least desirable foot angle scores. An analysis of animals who did not have an ideal score for either claw set and foot angle (scores of 5 for each trait) was performed. For claw set, 15.8% of yearlings, 45.1% of two and three-year-olds, and 66.0% of cows 4 years of age and older did not have foot angle scores equal to 5. In regards to claw set, 31.7% of yearlings, 42.8% of two and three-year-olds, and 68.2% of cows four years of age and older did not have claw set scores equal to 5. As female cattle age, there is a significant transition of scored feet from front foot to back foot

#### Sire Line Progeny Analysis (Table 3)

A descriptive statistical analysis of the nine sires with at least 75 progeny scored was performed to determine the mean claw set and foot angle. For foot angle, the range between the progeny

of the sire line with the greatest foot angle score and that of the least was 0.6. For claw set, the same range was 0.57. There were many statistical differences among the sire liens in

Table 3: Footscore Analysis of Progeny of 9 Sires with at least 75 progeny Sire Lines 9 Item number of offspring 77 220 96 95 123 84 80 80 75 Offspring foot angle<sup>1</sup> 5.48abc 5.52ab 5.4ac 5.68b 5.23cd 5.27cd 5.08d 5.36acd 5.2cd Sire foot angle EPD +0.26 +0.43 +0.52 +0.41 +0.36 +0.36 +0.32 +0.28 +0.45 Offspring claw set2 5.71a 5.67a 5.35b 5.78a 5.21b 5.30b 5.27b 5.34b 5.25b Sire claw set EPD +0.34 +0.35 +0.52 +0.36 +0.25 +0.24 +0.34 +0.51 +0.34

1 expressed in units of foot angle score relative to ideal (5) with low being more favorable 2 expressed in units of claw set score relative to ideal (5) with low being more favorable Lower case letters determine whether the mean difference between any pair of groups are statistically significant with groups not sharing a letter being significantly different

regards to the mean. As described below the table, the lower case letters indicate groups of animals with mean foot scores that are statistically different. For example, the groups ab and cd are considered different from each other.

#### Preliminary Results...

Changes in foot scores, in this study, show an effect on the claw set and foot angle associated with 1) age and 2) sex. Differences in mean foot angle and claw set scores may not appear to be of great practical significance, but in truth, these differences are quite large. Most animals scored using the AAA guidelines fall into foot angle and claw set scores of 4-8, and the scoring system uses only whole numbers. Age is accounted for when foot scores are used in the foot angle and claw set EPDs.

Advancing age has proven to have a large effect on foot angle and claw set in cows. Such an effect likely includes not only the physiological effects of getting older, but also additive effects of increased production stress of pregnancy and lactation as well as increased wear and tear by everyday locomotion. As seen in the results, the foot angle increases linearly with age specifically, the animal becomes more weak pasterned and set under herself. Claw set, however, not only increases linearly, but also quadratically, suggesting that as the animal ages, her claws become longer, more curled, and this happens more quicker as she ages. Age range in females shows a dramatic change in the number of foot scores not equal to 5 (less ideal feet) as well.

The effect of sex on both claw set and foot angle in yearling animals may be the result of a few different causes: perhaps it is a function of the different physiologies of the sexes, with bulls tending to have increased body mass that may put increased pressure on the feet. Or perhaps it is a function of environment and management. Heifers are often managed much differently than their male counterparts.

It is our hope that this research will aid in the continued refinement of the foot scoring protocol. Specifically, the scoring systems is dramatically influenced by age and sex of animal. In addition, the frequency of hind versus front hoof selected is dramatically influenced by age with yearlings having predominantly front foot problems, whereas 2-year-old cows and older have predominantly hind foot problems. Thus, we should consider a more standardized protocol that perhaps puts more emphasis on scoring aged cows/bulls (> 2 years old) and allow for adjustments for sex in the scoring protocol.

The research team would like to extend a sincere thank you to each of the producers associated with the study. The research committee has been finalizing a literature review associated with the project entitled "Importance of Feet and Leg Structure for Beef Cattle in Forage Based Systems" which will be published

in the international journal, Animals. Correlations between foot scores and growth type phenotypic traits are currently being analyzed and will be included in the final research paper for this project.

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January/February 2023

## Montana Angus Association Historical Piece

A Look Back Through the Wayne Stevenson Award Winners

After a 14-year hiatus, the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award was proudly awarded to the family of Bill Davis during the 2022 Annual Montana Angus Association Banquet held in Sidney, MT, this past September. Bill Davis' sister, Patti, and his wife, Jennifer, accepted the award on behalf of Bill due to his untimely passing in early 2022. Presenting the award on behalf of the family was Nicole Stevenson, granddaughter of Wayne Stevenson.

Since it's been so long since the awards inception and presentation, let's go back through the history of the award and the past winners. The award was first introduced



Jeanette Stevenson and Dave Hinman

in 1995 at the Annual Meeting in Lewistown. "At this time, it is my pleasure to present the Wayne Stevenson Memorial award of Excellence. The directors of the Montana Angus Association wanted to do something special

in remembrance of Wayne. It was decided that we would present an annual award to an outstanding Montanan who has made a major contribution to the Angus industry and personally made a positive impact on people with the energy and dedication not only to the breed and its people, but to life," announced President Dave Hinman. Nominations and letters of recommendation were written but the winner of the first Award of Excellence was clear: Wayne's mother, Jeanette Stevenson. She was chosen as the first award winner due to her dedication to the Angus breed, her resilience through hard times and sorrow, and her spirit. Her impact throughout the Angus world could not only be seen through her commitment to her family and friends, but to everyone else in the Angus breed, as well.

In 1996, MAA Vice President Roger Jacobs awarded Russ Denowh of Sidney the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence on September 18th in Bozeman at the MAA Annual Meeting. Russ's efforts were instrumental in the



Pat and Russ Denowh, Doug Stevenson and Malcolm Adams, President of the Montana Angus Association.

foundation of the Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch. They purchased their first Angus bull in 1953 and started the registered Gartner-Denowh Angus operation in 1957. When the registered Angus operation was first started, it was a family goal to develop a line of cattle with strong maternal traits. The ranch has become known as one of the top maternal trait herds possessing feminine characteristics, good milkers, breeding back at regular intervals and weaning heavy calves. Their first production sale was in 1967, selling only yearling bulls and it was one of the first herds to do so. Russ was a very active part of the community serving on many boards with numerous leadership positions as well as serving on the MAA board and as President of the association for 2 years. Congratulations to Russ and his family for all their contributions to the Angus breed throughout the years!

Clarence Van Dyke of Manhattan received the 1997 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award on September 17th at the annual meeting of the Montana Angus Association in Missoula. Presenting the award was MAA President Malcolm

Adams. Clarence was born and raised in the Gallatin Valley and after serving in the military, married his childhood sweetheart, Marian, in 1953. He began in the dairy business, eventually milking over 100 cows. At the time, his herd



Marian and Clarence Van Dyke with Doug Stevenson.

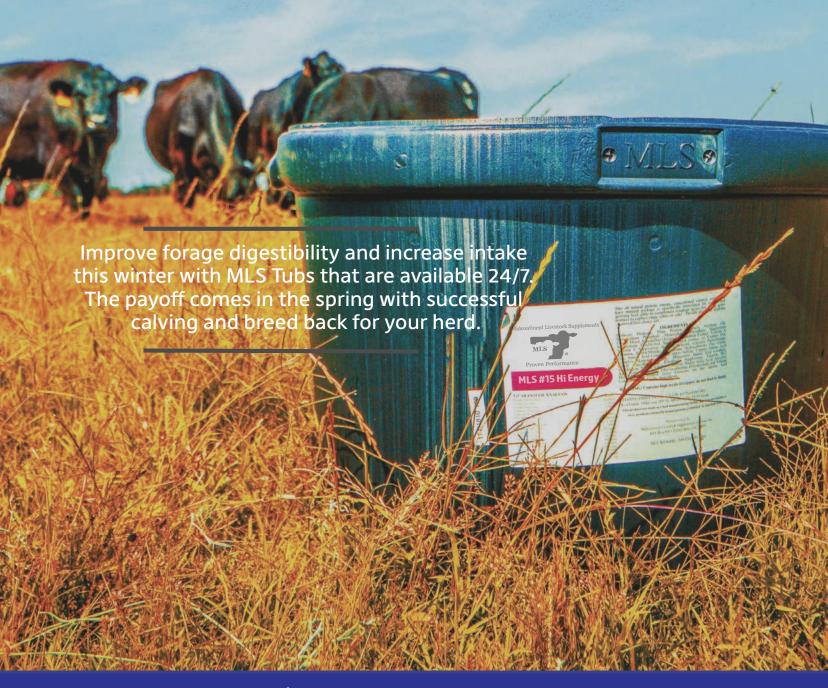
was one of the top producing in the state and was sold in 1989. The first registered Angus showed up at VDAR in 1960 and the herd was eventually built up to over 350 cows. Clarence was an early supporter of performance testing and sold many top dollar bulls in the test station sales. In addition, A.I and embryo transfer were also new breeding techniques first used at VDAR. Clarence has served on many boards including the Montana Angus Association board and was named 'Outstanding Farmer-Rancher of the Year' by the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to Clarence Van Dyke and his family!

MAA President Roger Jacobs presented the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award to Dale Davis of Belgrade on September 16, 1998, at the Annual Banquet in Great Falls. Davis first started in the registered Angus business in 1956 with 12 heifer calves and 2 cows that he bought from a neighbor. Davis was also a charter member of the Montana Beef Performance Association and helped set a new direction for beef cattle selection and breeding. In 1970, Rollin' Rock Angus had their first annual production sale with bulls and heifers going to 7 states. In 1973, Dale was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association and was active in that position from 1973-1979. He also served on the Montana Angus Association



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**History, cont.** Board of Directors in the late 1960s and 1987-1993. Davis spent his career in

Angus active in breed improvement and the Angus Herd Improvement Records program formation and played a key role in charting the course for performance programs, EPDs, and sire summaries. In 1977, Dale sold his interest in the Rollin' Rock Angus herd to his son, Bill, and went on to try to build a small but select linebred performance herd known as "PAPA" – Practical And Predictable Angus.



Presentation to Dale Davis by Doug Stevenson. (I-r) Doug Stevenson, Bill, Jennifer, Dale, Carol and Pat Davis

Congratulations to Dale Davis and his family for this distinct honor!

Pat Goggins was awarded the 1999 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award

of Excellence on September 22, 1999, in Miles City during the Annual Meeting of the MAA. Pat was the President of Western Livestock Reporter, Inc., which included Western Livestock Reporter, Agri-News, Public Auction Yards, Western Sales Management, Vermilion Ranch, Grand Shopping Center and more. He was also a self-taught auctioneer, has been recognized as one of the best livestock auctioneers in the US, and was again honored in 1998 by the National Auctioneer's Association. In the early 1960s, Pat purchased Public Auction Yards and in 1965 purchased Vermilion Ranch east of Billings. Under his direction, the ranch as become a nationally recognized quality registered Angus operation. Goggins is a founding father of the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) and was its first president and a board member for almost 15 years. On top of all of this, Pat was a huge supporter of youth and was very active in many other boards. Congratulations to



Pat Goggins receiving the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence plaque from Doug Stevenson and Roger Jacobs, President of the Montana Angus Association.

the Pat Goggins family on receiving this award and for his tremendous contributions to the Angus breed!

Congratulations to Kenny Mortag, Cascade, the recipient of the 2000 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award

of Excellence. The honor was presented October 21, 2000, preceding the Angus Female Sale at the NILE in Billings. Kenny was a vital part of Montana Angus activities for many years, serving as the Secretary of MAA from 1971-1978. Ken and his wife Betty ranched near Cascade, and he worked as a banker from 1929-1971. Kenny sent this thank you note shortly after the NILE. "Many thanks to the officers and directors of the Montana Angus Association for presenting me with the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award

of Excellence. It really meant a lot to me, especially since Wayne was such a good friend of mine. I have wonderful memories of my association with him during the years when I was Secretary for MAA. I have made many close friends with members



Doug Stevenson, Hobson, presenting the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence to Kenny Mortag.

of the MAA over the years, and I will always cherish my relationships with these good people. The association has come a long way since its humble beginnings in the 60s and 70s, and I like to feel that I contributed in some small way to its present enviable position in the livestock world. Sincerely, Kenneth Mortag."

The recipients of the 2001 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence were Tom and Gladys Walling of Winifred. When presenting the award, Roger Jacobs described the honorees as two people with the highest integrity and with great enthusiasm for Montana Angus. Tom and Gladys were married June 7, 1963, after a tenday courtship. Together, they purchased their first Angus bred heifers from Howard Baird of Baird Angus Ranch in 1972. The Wallings made many close friends in the Angus business in those early years, including Wayne Stevenson. Walling cattle were available private treaty until their first production sale in 1984. They also served concurrently as Presidents of the Montana Angus Association and

the Montana Angus
Auxiliary in 1987 and
1988. They were both
very active members
of their community in
Central Montana and
served on many boards
and committees. The
Wallings held their last
production sale in April
of 2000 after dispersing
their registered cattle



and heifer calves in November of 1999. Congratulations to this hard-working family.

Let's see if you can guess who the winner of the 2002 Wayne Stevenson Award was. It was January of 1960 when a young couple and their two-year-old daughter pulled into the yard of their new Montana home from Longmont, CO. The young man was born and raised in Nebraska on the family ranch that had been in the Angus business since 1923. The young wife, a farm-raised girl, worked right along beside him in those early years with the dream of building a reputation herd in Montana. With no experience in the registered business, she quickly learned the importance of records, registrations, and pedigrees. For the next 28 years, she was the bookkeeper, secretary, advertising agent, cook, and "go-fer" as the ranch was 60 miles from the nearest town with adequate supplies. In just a few years, the couple

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#### History, cont.



Doug Stevenson presents Donna Sitz-Arthun with the Wayne Stevenson If you haven't Memorial Award during the annual guessed alread Montana Angus Association Banquet. the recipient of

was marketing bulls in their own sale at the ranch. As the years went by and the size of the ranch and the cow herd grew, so did the family. Now there were four children, two boys and two girls. Tragedy struck in January of 1989 when the father lost his life in a tractor accident. guessed already, the recipient of the 2002 Award was

Donna Sitz-Arthun. Under the leadership and guidance of Donna, Sitz Angus entered a new era. What has transpired at Sitz Angus since that fateful day in 1989 naturally goes to the family for its determination to achieve its dreams and goals. Not only was Donna a strong leader and a huge inspiration to many, but she was always a very active member and supporter of her community. To know Donna was to know a kind and helpful lady who always thought of those not as fortunate as herself. Congrats to the Sitz family on this honor.

To the man who presented so many of these awards, it was only fitting that he deserved one himself. Roger Jacobs was awarded the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence on October 17, 2003, during the Annual Montana Angus Association banquet. Jacobs grew up on an Angus ranch in southwestern North Dakota. He found his way to Montana's Big Sky Country in June of 1977 as a regional manager of the American Angus Association for the territory of Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. It was about 1982 when Jake decided to strike out on his own as a sale manager and auctioneer. He did a wonderful job of starting in tough times as this was a period of low prices and hard sales, but he went at it with optimism and determination. It has certainly paid off through the years as he has become one of the most renown purebred auctioneers across western America. Jake was instrumental in the inception of the Montana Junior Beef Expo and served as a director and President of the MAA. Congratulations to Roger Jacobs and his astounding background advancing the Angus breed!

Dave and Yvonne Hinman were the winners of the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence in 2004. Hinman Angus is a family that got its start in 1973 when they purchased their first bred heifers from Lund's B Bar Angus. Shortly after that, they purchased a group of bred heifers from Hyline Angus. In 1979, they rented a ranch near Willow Creek, MT, where they both grew up. For over 20 years, that's where they raised their cattle, and their two daughters, Jill and Heidi. In 2000, they moved to Malta and

purchased the ranch. In 1988, Hinman Angus, along with Rollin' Rock, PAPA Ranch, and Cedar Hills Angus established the Performance Breeders Bull Sale that was held in Belgrade for 13 years. Eventually



by 2009, they moved their production sale to the ranch in Malta and Rollin' Rock continued to sell in Sidney. The Hinmans have been involved in the Angus business for many years and both have been very active in the association. Congratulations to the Hinman family – what an honor!

Kathy Dubs was presented the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellent in 2005 at the MAA Annual Meeting. Kathy and her husband, Louis, are originally from Nebraska and many of their current bloodlines trace back to their 4-H and FFA days from over 45 years ago. In 1987, they moved from to Billings from Nebraska and have been

selling registered Angus cattle in Montana ever since. Kathy was also the Executive Secretary for the Montana Angus Association for a great number of years and continues to be active in the association. You can find top quality bulls at their bull sale held in March every year as well as at Midland Bull Test. Congratulation Kathy – well deserved!



Kathy Dubs was presented the Wayne Stevenson Distinguished Service Award, Doug Stevenson (left) Presents the Award.

Gary Parker, then of Laramie, WY, was the 2006 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award winner. The following is what was shared when the family accepted the award on behalf of Gary. "Gary first met Wayne on a Montana Angus Tour bus. Gary was at the Jolly Roger, but they had not purchased registered animals yet. Wayne and Gary quickly became friends and Wayne was instantly willing to offer information and advice. Gary credited Wayne with his ability to market and merchandise bulls, jokingly quoting Wayne "Come look at my bull." Marian recognized how much Gary had learned from Wayne and had in common with him when, shortly after Wayne's death, she told him "With Wayne no longer being here, it's good we have someone to continue preaching to the cowman." It was quite evident that Wayne's beliefs, Angus genetic and breeding knowledge, how to treat people, and good heart were a common thread between the two. They were very much like brothers, talking at least once a week on the phone." Gary was presented with the Wayne Stevenson Memorial award on October 20, 2006. Quite literally as

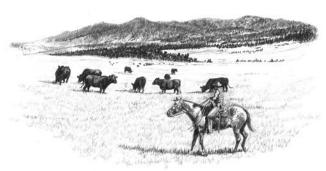
Roger Jacobs was presenting the award that night and the room was filled with the love of his Montana friends, Gary left this world. There is no doubt that love ushered him well. You can look forward to a full history on Gary Parker and the incredible impact he made in the Angus business in our March/April 2023 issue.

For reasons unbeknown to me, the Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award wasn't handed out for quite some time from 2007-2021. At a late 2021 board meeting of the MAA, it was decided to bring the award back around again. It was a unanimous decision to award the 2022 Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award of Excellence to Bill Davis after he lost his long battle to cancer. Bill was known for his captivating personality and was known to light up a room with both humor and extensive knowledge of the breed and industry. Bill and Jennifer purchased Rollin' Rock Angus and in 1993, moved the ranch headquarters to Sidney. They were founding members of the Performance Breeders Bull Sale, one of the leading Angus sales in Montana at the time. Bill, following the footsteps of his father, served as the President of the Montana Beef Producers Association, served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors for 8 years and served as President in 2010. The Davis family has provided superior genetics, business-oriented customer service, and leadership roles in the Angus industry over the past 50 years. A big thank you goes out to the Davis family and Bill – you will be missed.

The Wayne Stevenson Memorial Award will be handed out annually at the Annual Meeting of the MAA Membership that precedes the Montana Angus Tour each year. If you would like to nominate a Montana Angus breeder for this high honor, please contact a board member or Secretary Jesse Thompson at montanaangusnews@mtangus.org.

In March of 1994, tragedy struck the small Montana community of Hobson, MT, when prominent rancher and community member, Wayne Stevenson, was found murdered on the ranch by another ranch hand. Stevenson, 51, was the patriarch to the Basin Angus and Stevenson's Diamond Dot Angus families and his influence still continues today. Wayne was a past President of the Montana Angus Association and active in the Montana Stockgrowers Association. In 1994, Wayne's contributions to the Angus breed were recognized posthumously when he was inducted into the American Angus Association's Heritage Foundation.









To the heavens came a cowboy, a different sort of guy, He figured you could run cattle even up there in the sky,

The <u>lo</u>rd sald, "I'm you're shepherd. Son, you're in heaven now. We just don't have room up here for all those darned black cows."

But he said," Sure you do, just give me that cloud there. I'll trade you all my work and time. I think you'll find that's fair."

This man was a salesman and would take on any battle. He'd make it work no matter what. Soon they'd all be running cattle.

Some said, "How do you do it? How do you make it work so well? He cleared his throat and swallowed and said, "T'll never tell."

He really loved his cows and was with them everyday. When asked about it he just said, "I lived and died that way."

Some up there were jealous and said it right out loud. "What's this guy think he can do, own every single cloud?"

But this man had ambition and could go in pretty deep. Some said, "He'll never make it." Some said, "Does he ever sleep?"

Now he's known throughout the heavens and his place is the best. He keeps on gettin' bigger for him there's just no rest.

He's happy up there now, but things just aren't quite right. He gets a little bit behind on the paper work at night.

He needs a secretary. He's kind of in a bind, but there's no need to apply. He has someone in mind. He looks down on the world, this crazy place we live, where some just seem to take and take and others always give.

He sees the people gathered to pay their last respects and finits "Don"t all just stand around, there must be fence to fix."

He loved his family and friends, that stood out very well. Though words would never say it much, I'm sure we all could tell.

He thinks about those close to him, there's more than I can name. We can now all rest assured, his thoughts are with you, "Mame.

I guess we never know how it will start or end. It's nice to know that when we go up there, we'll have a friend.

~CLINT CARR

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## Patti Nissen-Cross

June 17, 1952 - December 1, 2022

Patty Nissen-Cross, 70, of Chinook passed away of ALS, on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 at her Missoula home.

She was born on June 17, 1952, in Havre, Montana, to Ray and Erna Ramberg. She was raised on the family ranch, South of Chinook, MT. She attended Ada Elementary and graduated from Chinook High School in 1970. As a young girl growing up on a ranch she took an active interest in horses, cattle, sheep, and in 70 years she was never dogless. She was actively involved in 4-H and the American Hereford Association. She attended Montana State University and transferred to Colorado State University where she graduated with degree in Agricultural Journalism in 1975.

When she returned to the ranch in 1976, she started her own sheep herd and in 1977 sold a couple lambs for 4-H projects. Soon, Patty was selling lambs to surrounding counties and beyond. It became apparent to her that if she wanted to continue to raise competitive lambs in the show lamb world, she was going to



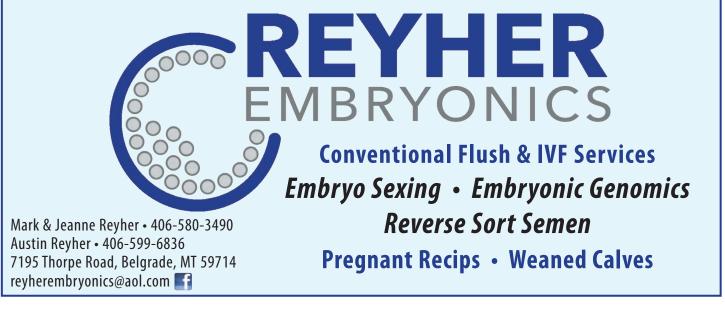
have to improve her genetics. She began to purchase quality club lamb rams and kept improving the herd. In 2004, she officially started Patty's Club Lambs, holding her first live auction, and eventually moved to an online auction format which continues annually, every April.

On Dec. 31, 1987, she married Larry Nissen and became a mother of five children. Together, Larry and Patty founded an Angus seedstock operation that produced quality angus bulls until 2010 when Larry passed away from cancer. On Jun. 29, 2013, Patty remarried to Marvin Cross. Together they consolidated their angus herds and operated as Top Notch Angus until 2021. Due to health concerns, they dispersed the herd and relocated to Missoula to be closer to family. Despite dispersing the cattle heard, Patty insisted on relocating 30 head of her best ewes to Missoula, where her son Ray continues to operate Patty's Club Lambs.

Patty had a lifelong commitment to custom fitting. She was well known for the countless show and sale cattle she prepared and displayed at the NILE and Denver Stock Show. She was actively involved in 4-H until her death, and offered advice/help to fit, feed and show animals to anyone willing to listen. Patty helped her own children show cattle and sheep and helped countless youth over the years. She was a livestock breeder who committed her life to involving the youth of tomorrow in agriculture and educating people about proper livestock care and presentation.

Survivors include her husband Marvin, Missoula; Her children and her grandchildren, one brother and his family Gary (Debra) Ramberg, Chinook.

A celebration of life will be held on Jun. 16, 2023, at the Blaine County fairgrounds commercial building. Time to be determined.





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#### BASIII SAFE DEPOSIT 9824

Sire: Basin Deposit 6249 MGS: Summitcrest Complete 1P55



#### STERMING PACIFIC 904

Sire: Hoover No Doubt MGS: GAR Prophet



#### COMMEANY MBERTY 8874

Sire: Connealy National 390C MGS: MGR Treasure

Happy New Year from MSU Angus! Just like the Ringling 5, we love our little cowherd every day of the year, but can we all agree that it is a lot easier to love our cows when the temperatures are above zero and the wind isn't blowing ninety miles an hour? Cheers to easy fleshing cows and equipment that starts no matter what the weather!

October was pregnancy checking month for the MSU Angus program. Bred heifers were pregnancy checked on October 19th at the BART Farm in Bozeman. Our thirty registered Angus heifers performed as follows: 18 AI bred, 9 bull bred, and 3 opens. These heifers will calve around the beginning of May. The mature cow herd was checked on October 24th at the Red Bluff Research Station. Our 53 registered Angus mature females performed as follows: 32 AI bred, 9 natural bred, 5 culls (2020 models – culled for various reasons), and 6 opens. We synchronized 48 recip cows in the summer, and 42 of those received embryos. Of those 42 implanted cows, we were thrilled to end up with 27 pregnancies. We are excited to see this next calf crop on the ground come end of April to beginning of May.

Thomas Hamilton (incoming graduate student manager for the MSU Angus program) and I had a great time visiting the NILE with Dr. Tim. We attended part of the Montana Angus board meeting, and Thomas was a judge in the Angus female show.

MSU Angus sent four eighteen-month-old bulls to be developed for the Treasure State Bull Sale out of some really great females: bull tattoos - 21200, 21256, 21248, and 21205. MSU Tahoe 21200 is a really nice calf out of Circle L Altune 454G. Circle L Altune 454G (donated by Kurt Kangus) has been a really nice female for our program, often raising calves at the top of the scale come weaning. MSU Cool 21256 is another calf out of a great producing female, SITZ Blackcap 3857 (donated by SITZ Angus), who has a weaning ratio of 3 at 111. MSU Brag On Ag 21248 is a 44 Bragging Rights 4372 son out of Circle L Molly 202E (donated by Circle L Angus), another outstanding female that packs a big calf at her side each year. Our last young sire is MSU Templeton 21205. This son is progeny of our herd bull, Stevenson Templeton 80458, and MSU Lucy 19204. MSU Lucy is a daughter of Pine Coulee Lucy E25 (donated by Pine Coulee Angus) who has a weaning ratio of 3 at 103. We believe that these bulls are testament to all of the females that have been so generously donated to MSU Angus over the years, and we are really proud to present them at the Treasure State Bull sale this April.

A few updates for our program - MSU Angus has been working on sending out dam production

reports on animals that remain in the herd from the donated heifers and bred heifers from 2019. If you wish to stay up to date on the MSU Angus program, please consider checking out our Facebook page: Montana State University Angus.

As I end my term as the MSU Angus Graduate Student Manager, I am full of gratitude for such an amazing opportunity. It has been a great pleasure to work with Jesse Thompson and the entire Montana Angus Association board as well as Ryan Perry (Treasure State Bull Test), Dr. Tim and the entire MSU Angus team, and all of the wonderful Angus producers here in Montana. I have learned so much in this position, and I really appreciate all those that took the time to help and teach me. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

As always, we truly cannot thank Montana Angus producers enough for all of their support, kind words, and encouragement. If you make it to Bozeman, please feel free to contact Dr. Tim, Thomas, or I and we would gladly show you the MSU Angus cattle or answer any questions you might have. In addition, feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Taylre Sitz • msu-angus@montana.edu • 406-641-0807

Tim DelCurto • timothy.delcurto@montana.edu • 541-910-8970

Thomas Hamilton • msu-angus@montana.edu • 541-403-4163

"Go Cats!"



## || **Janessa Kluth** || *MSU Student Spotlight*

y name is Janessa Kluth. I am a first-year graduate  $oldsymbol{1}$ student studying Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University. I grew up in Kimberly, Idaho and moved to Bozeman to obtain my undergraduate degree in Animal Science. Although I didn't grow up on a ranch or feedlot, I received an introduction to the beef cattle industry through my FFA project. In 2014, I purchased a couple Angus cows with an FSA Youth Loan and started down the road of cattle ownership. This short introduction into the cattle industry proved to be an incredible learning experience. I was catapulted into a world in which the calendar revolved around calving and breeding dates, and my math homework shifted from calculus problems to stocking rate calculations. I've since sold this tiny herd, but often reflect on how those few cows piqued enough interest in the livestock industry to pursue a related education.

After my sophomore year at MSU, I had the opportunity to begin working as an undergraduate research assistant under Dr. Tim DelCurto. As a result, working with cannulated cows has dominated my workload for the past three years. Whether performing rumen evacuations during digestion studies or gathering the last group of cows for supplementation, I have learned something new each time I step foot on our research facilities. This hands-on education is what makes our department so unique. As animal science students, we are given opportunities to learn under enthusiastic advisors with a wealth of knowledge. This is evident in the programs that provide firsthand experience in the field. When we pair the applied livestock management courses with programs like MSU Angus, we are given access to a well-rounded education and invaluable networking opportunities.



I was granted the opportunity to attend the Montana Angus Tours last fall and was impressed by every aspect of these visits. The diversity that exists within the Angus breed is fascinating, though I was further struck by the unwavering quality of cattle between operations. These herds are also managed by some of the most generous people I've had the pleasure of meeting. We were welcomed with open arms, proudly shown excellent animals, and left satisfied with the animals and food alike. If the quality of cattle can't encourage someone to work within Montana's beef cattle industry, the quality of people surely can. I am excited continue my involvement with the MSU Angus Program as I continue my education and cannot wait to meet more producers across the state.



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~Parker Cattle Co., UT

"Our bull herd is now over 90 percent SRS blood lines, with many of them half-brothers. We are impressed with **the way they maintain their condition and structural health**. SRS bulls fit our program of breeding length & thickness of loin into cattle"

~Mikes Ranch, MT



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S	<b>SRS Ripper 1047K</b> reg#20444778									
CED BW WW YW Milk \$W \$E						\$B				
+11	1.0	47	78	35	\$59	\$92				



SI	<b>SRS Feature 0288K</b> reg#20437783									
CED	BW	ww	YW	Milk	\$W	\$B				
+7	0.9	75	122	26	\$75	\$146				



7	<b>SRS Atlantis 5220K</b> reg#20483573							
	CED	BW	ww	YW	Milk	\$W	\$B	
4	+1	1.5	62	107	32	\$68	\$110	

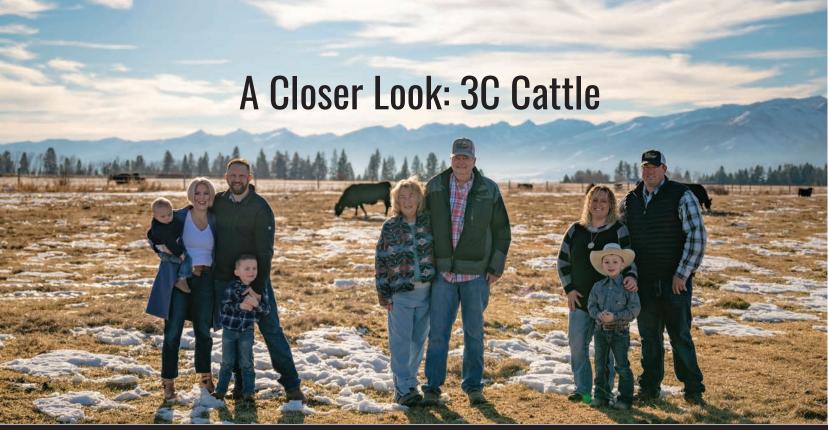


<b>SRS Headline 9300K</b> reg#20437881									
CED	BW	ww	YW	Milk	\$W	\$B			
+6	1.9	78	127	34	\$84	\$114			

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3C Cattle is owned and operated by Chad, Lacey & Cayden Sutherlin. We have been members of Montana Angus since 2008. Lacey is the tour secretary for Western Montana Angus and an active member of the Montana Angus Auxiliary. Chad has been ranching with his parents in the Bitterroot Valley since he was born. Lacey grew up in the commercial cattle industry and got a taste of the registered business working on the Mytty Angus Ranch during high school and college. She is also a District Sales Manager for ABS Global in Montana, Wyoming, Northern Idaho & Washington. Her main responsibility is to manage a large group of ABS Representatives in this area. She helps these reps and customers setup and design their AI Breeding programs and assists in sire selection to help them reach their genetic improvement goals. In 2017 the Sutherlin's were blessed with their son Cayden Alan. In addition to raising Angus Cattle, they also raise Red Angus Cattle, farm hay and small grains and do custom AI Projects.

In 2008 Chad and his grandparents Loren & Dorothy Brubaker, of Genetic Connection, started a partnership with 40 head of Angus Cows. Those cows are the main foundation of the 3C Cattle cow herd. Today the cow herd has grown to 150 Angus mother cows. Without the help of Chad's grandparents, we wouldn't have the cow herd that we do today. The foundation of the cow herd traces back to Mytty InFocus, Final Answer & SydGen CC &7. In more recent years we have AI'd to Sitz Stellar, Square B True North, Musgrave Feature & Tehama Patriarch.

We market the top end of our yearling bulls annually the first Saturday in March, in what was formerly called the "Bulls of the Bitterroot Sale". New this year we have re-named the sale the "3C Cattle Annual Production Sale" and although there is a new name the management, people and quality of cattle will remain the same. Our goal remains the same, to raise functional sound bulls that will inject

longevity, muscle & balance into your herd. At our bull sale in the Spring, we will also market a group of about 50 Commercial Angus Heifer Replacements.

In 2019 3C Cattle purchased 40 First calf heifer pairs from the Mytty Angus Ranch. These females have turned into great young cows, and they are doing an outstanding job of carrying on the legacy of the Mytty Angus cow herd. In the same year we decided to partner with Chad's brother Cody and his wife Mindy and sons Tripp & Jett on females from the LB Farms Angus herd. Both the Mytty's and LB Farms herds had values and goals that fit right into our herd and these genetics have complemented our herd very well.

At 3C Cattle we cull our herd annually to make sure only the best females are retained. Every cow gets Artificially Inseminated once and they are with our herd bulls no longer than 60 days. We evaluate the feet and udders on our females every year. The replacement females and bulls sold are Angus GS 50K DNA tested and parent verified. Our end product is an outstanding set of self-sufficient females and an exceptional group of yearling bulls to sell, that we are proud to represent. We sure hope to see you at the 3C Cattle Annual Production Sale on March 4, 2023 in Stevensville, MT. The sale is held at the Sutherlin Farms Feedlot. Both the yearling bulls and commercial heifers are there currently, and you are welcome to visit anytime!

We are lucky to have the support from both Chad and Lacey's parents and families, as well as the Sutherlin Farms Crew. For the Sutherlins and most of you reading this, ranching is a lifestyle and the way we have chosen to build our legacy to some day pass on to Cayden and his family. He always says... I want to be a rancher, just like my dad! The future is bright at 3C Cattle.

## PINE COULEE BULL SALE

Monday, March 13, 2023

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SALE TIME

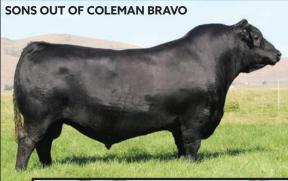


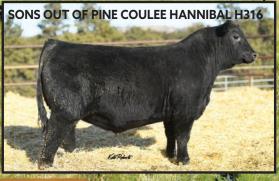














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Werner Flat Top
Pine Coulee Resource 60C
Duff Honcho

Montana Angus News



## Colt Daniel Reisig DECEMBER 22, 2007 -MAY 25, 2022

Colt Daniel Reisig, 14, passed away Wednesday, May 25, 2022 in Lewistown, MT. Colt was born in Lewistown on December 22, 2007 to Dustin and Rebecca (Eckhardt) Reisig.

Colt was an excellent student and in the eighth grade; beloved by fellow students, faculty and administration. He was part of the "Hogs" – the line in football playing both offense and defense. He was proud of his efforts and playing almost every single play of every game he was in. He was a phenomenal wrestler having only wrestled his 7th and 8th grade years. Everything he did was done to the best of his ability.

Colt was a hard worker. Previously mentored by Shawn and Tammy Grindheim, he was a 4-H member for several years, winning Grand Champion Replacement Heifer in 2017. He was a proud co-owner of Reisig Brothers Quality Custom Haying Company est. in 2020. Colt had immense plans for the future including restoring his 1977 Ford Highboy pickup with Resurrection Automotive in Billings.

Colt's friends were of paramount importance to him. He wanted them to know how much he loved them. He had become an avid weightlifter and spent time every day working out. He was also a gifted photographer and sketch artist. He was proud of his accomplishments and loved his animals. He saw the best in everyone and could articulate what he saw as exceptional in them and wanted everyone to be happy. Colt is survived by his parents, Dustin and Rebecca; brother, Jacob Reisig; grandmothers, Wanda Reisig and Audrey Eckhardt; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his grandma, Martha Warneke; and grandpas, Bob Eckhardt and Dave Reisig.

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12 SONS SELL CONNEALY DRY VALLEY AAA: 18533906

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	CW
+6	+3.5	+54	+105	+23	+43



16 SONS SELL KCF BENNETT BOULDER AAA: 18491439

CED	BW	ww	YW	Milk	CW
+11	+.2	+73	+132	+26	+64



17 SONS SELL **VDAR GALLATIN 7586** AAA: 18409408

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	CW
+10	+2.0	+56	+106	+32	+32

VIDEOS AND UPDATED INFO AT: VELTKAMPANGUS.COM



10 SONS SELL FF EZ MONEY D217 AAA: 18526415

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	CW
+9	+0	+72	+138	+23	+59



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# AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE TEN MONTANA BREEDERS WHO REGISTERED THE MOST ANGUS

The 10 producers who registered the most Angus beef cattle in the state of Montana recorded a total of 8585 Angus with the American Angus Association® during fiscal year 2022, which ended Sept. 30, according to Mark McCully, Association chief executive officer.

The 10 top recorders in Montana are:

Sitz Angus Farm, Harrison
Vermilion Ranch, Billings
Stevenson Diamond Dot, Hobson
Green Mountain Angus Ranch,
Ryegate

Gartner - Denowh Angus Ranch, Sidney

Bobcat Angus, Galata
Pine Coulee Angus Ranch,
Absarokee

Top Line Cattle, Big Timber Basin Angus Ranch, Laurel Arntzen K7 Angus, Hilger.

Angus breeders across the nation in 2022 registered 304,822 head of Angus cattle. "Our Association members lead the industry in adopting new technology and breeding the most problem-free cattle for their customers," McCully said. "Cattlemen across the country continue to find registered Angus seedstock are the most profitable option for their herd."

##

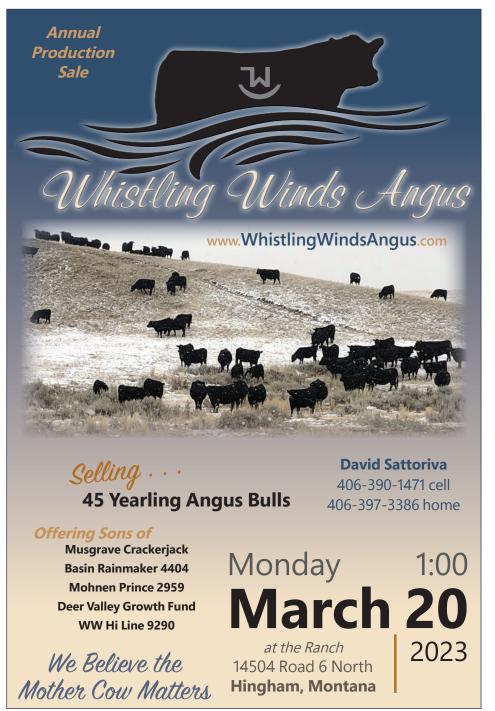
# BEEF INDUSTRY PANEL SHARES INSIGHT ON FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Cattlemen and women from across the United States work in different sectors of the beef industry, deal with different environmental issues and have different business strategies. But at the end of the day, all farmers and ranchers work toward the same goal; to continue raising and selling the best beef possible.

Raising top-quality beef comes with both barriers and optimism. During the 2022 Angus Convention first general session, Exploring Your Potential, five Angus breeders and industry experts spoke on a panel with Mark McCully, American Angus Association® chief executive officer, as

the moderator. The panel took place November 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The panel included the following backgrounds and perspectives: Jerry Connealy with Connealy Angus; Mark Gardiner with Gardiner Angus Ranch and U. S. Premium Beef; Ed Greiman with Greiman Brothers and Upper Iowa Beef; Joe Goggins with Vermilion Ranch and Northern Livestock Video Auction; and Matt Perrier with Dalebanks Angus.





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## ~ REGIONAL NEWS

Big opportunities lie ahead for the industry, the panelists said. Perrier spoke about the importance of influence and the next generation. Greiman discussed how vital it is for producers to continually improve quality so packers can find new ways to add value to the carcass. The type of supplies and increasing packing capacity brought excitement to Goggins, and Connealy shared his perspective about the value of Association tools.

"It's full circle. The American Angus Association provides the tools, and you guys [producers] have obviously done a tremendous job using those tools making a premium as demand has gone up," said Connealy. "But there is still upside that we can get better. We can always get better."

Vertical coordination is also an answer to improving the beef industry while avoiding vertical integration said Gardiner. He defines vertical integration as an entity owning things from the cut of beef all the way to the genetics.

"The only way we keep that from happening, in my opinion, is through vertical coordination and passing that information, building those alliances, sharing and being transparent with whoever it is we sell product to and with who they sell product to," said Gardiner.

Perhaps the biggest challenge, the

cattlemen said, is ensuring that beef industry profitability is spread over all segments of the industry. In the past, when one segment made money, the others lost it —the "skin thy neighbor approach," as Gardiner put it.

The panelists talked about the value and quality of Angus beef creating more profitability. Perrier mentioned a quote from John Stika, Certified Angus Beef® president, who said the only new money in the beef industry comes from the consumer. If that is the case, we must ensure there is opportunity to make money through consumer demand, said Perrier.

Increasing consumer demand also means increasing consumer trust, which Connealy said is the most significant barrier to the industry's future success. If we don't do the right things, or represent our cattle and our industry correctly, consumer trust could drag us down, he said.

Pull-through demand for Certified Angus Beef® is key. As long as we can keep that, he said, "We will come out on top. I am confident in that."

The group's morale was bullish as they considered environmental and economic factors influencing profitability of producers in the coming years. Considering the market's improvement and opportunity, the group also recognized the effect rising input costs will have on cattle prices. Greiman discussed

how producers should use the tools and resources available to them as prices swing. Risk management was a tool discussed as well as a genetic hedge—or the ability to protect yourself through the use of good genetics.

The Angus breed is positioned well to help with that, Perrier said. "We have one breed that can do what we do from an end product, growth standpoint and yet still have a pasture full of females that are going to make the producer money."

As the Angus breed and beef industry work toward a successful future, the panel reminded attendees how everyone is facing the same challenges and opportunities. Regardless of size and shape, there is room for success and probability of cattle producers.

-Written by Whitney Whitaker, Angus Communications

##

# American Angus Association® congratulates Heritage

#### Foundation inductees

To celebrate and honor the L contributions of individuals who have gone above and beyond for the Angus Breed, the American Angus Association® created the Heritage Foundation in 1983. At the 2022 Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, three couples and one individual were inducted into the Heritage Foundation because of their innovation, service and leadership. Over the past 130 years, the business breed has proven itself as an industry leader and expert. Inductees of the Heritage Foundation depict the type of individuals who built a reputation with their drive, ambition and forward-thinking attitude.

From the start of their operations, these individuals set out on a mission to improve the Angus breed and the cattle industry even if they did not realize what the fruits of their efforts would be. This group held the vision



Beef Industry Panel speaks during the first general session at the 2022 Angus Convention on November 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pictured from left are Mark McCully, Jerry Connealy, Mark Gardiner, Joe Goggins, Ed Greiman, Matt Perrier.

# Vermilion Ranch 5,000 ANGUS SELL



#### FEATURED SIRES OF THE 2023 SPRING SALE









# Spring Performance Sale THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

Heifers sell at the South Pryor Development Center -12:00 NOON

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Vermilion Embryo Sale

200 embryos from Vermilion's best sell at the Public Auction Yards, Billings, MT - 6:00 PM

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

Bulls sell at the Public Auction Yards, Billings, MT - 11:00 AM

#### **500 TOTAL PERFORMANCE YEARLING ANGUS BULLS**



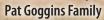
Bulls sired by:

Casino Bomber - Sitz Commerce - Connealy King Air - Vermilion Bomber G017 - Myers Fair-N-Square - Deer Valley Growth Fund -Vermilion Bomber G077 - Connealy McIlroy As well as the first sons of Ellingson Three Rivers 0065, Sitz Savvy and Vermilion Currency - three exciting, new sires in the Vermilion program.

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Jake Kading - Herdsman Cell: 406-672-5844

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Sale broadcast and videos available online through Northern **Livestock Video Auction** www.northernlivestockvideo.com

and foresight to elevate Angus cattle for the betterment of farmers and ranchers across the country. Looking back, many of these inductees question how they managed to prosper through tough times.

The 2022 inductees include: Jim and Sue Coleman of Modesto, California; Leo and Sam McDonnell of Columbus, Montana; Dave Nichols of Anita, Iowa; and Becky and the late Arlen Sawyer of Bassett, Nebraska.

Jim and Sue Coleman - What started out as a small business investment in 1976, Jim and Sue Coleman's Vintage Angus Ranch has since turned into an established set of diverse genetics with an emphasis on cow families and more importantly — emphasis on the Angus Family. Alongside manager Doug Worthington, the operation consists of a 450 Angus cowherd that grazes more than 5,000 acres in the California Sierra Foothills. In addition to their commitment to performance data and maternal traits, the Coleman's heavily pour support into the efforts of the Angus Foundation to enhance the future of the Angus breed's education, youth and research. The Coleman's passion for the breed is clearly shown in their commitment to the Angus female, commitment to the Angus Family and commitment to the next generation.



Leo and Sam McDonnell, Columbus, Mont., were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation, Nov. 6 during the American Angus Association's Awards Recognition Dinner, at the 2022 Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pictured from left are Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO Leo McDonnell, Sam McDonnell, Mary Woods, 2022 Miss American Angus.

#### Leo and Sam McDonnell -

Generational on the top and bottom side, Leo and Sam McDonnell devote their time and efforts to providing the most predictable and proven genetics available on their operation, McDonnell Angus. Moving toward trait selection of economic value, the family's success increased as they worked with breeders toward a common goal industrywide efficiency. Carrying on what his father started in 1962, Leo managed the Midland Bull Test which has since grown to become the largest performance test center in North America, testing about 2,000 bulls annually, but has since been passed on to his son. As Leo and Sam transition their focus to McDonnell Angus, they note that the legacy isn't the business the legacy is their children and grandchildren. Their legacy lies in the future of the industry.

**Dave Nichols** - Dedicated to data the mantra of lifetime Angus breeder, Dave Nichols. From being the first Iowan herd to incorporate computer performance records to intricate feed intake and measurement systems, Nichols has continuously adapted and extended the limits of performance records. This immense interest in data led to his heavy involvement in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR), Beef Improvement federation (BIF) along with partaking in numerous research projects to improve technology. From his leadership and accolades to his dedication to providing customers with a firm handshake and the best genetics possible, Nichols' investment in the breed and its success is evident in all he does.

#### Becky and the late Arlen Sawyer

- A family who built themselves on grit and resilience, it's no surprise they've relied on the adaptability and performance of Angus genetics to sustain their livelihood. For the past 30 years, the Sawyer family's main priority has been to produce cattle that thrive under Nebraska Sandhills range conditions. With a cow herd consisting of 600 registered and commercial Angus cows, Becky and her late husband, Arlen, along with their children, Adam and Jessica, have worked diligently

each day to sustain their 100 + year operation, A&B Cattle. Dedicated just as much to the next 100 years as they've been in the past 100, they continue to create a prosperous future for both the beef industry and the next generation of cattlemen.

-Written by Whitney Whitaker, Angus Communications

##

# GENETICS DRIVE CONVERSATION FOR PROFITABILITY OF COMMERCIAL CATTLEMEN

Cost of gain increases, black-hided cattle market saturation and tight supplies due to weather are all challenging the commercial cattlemen today. How do they stay profitable amidst the market? During the 2022 Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah November 5, the AngusLinkSM team hosted the Capturing Value session. The session aimed to help commercial producers learn how to capture more value for their calves so they can continue to face challenges but remain profitable.

Troy Marshall, director of commercial industry relations for the American Angus Association®, moderated a panel including Terrill Ostrum, livestock broker; Jordan Willis, cow-calf producer; Joe Goggins, Angus breeder and auctioneer; and Jed Connealy, Angus breeder and cattle marketer. Each panelist actively engages with cow-calf producers, but also have a hand in other sectors of the industry.

Regardless of their positions, panelists talked optimistically about the future, especially when discussing ways to earn a premium or a few more dollars for their calves. There are plenty of programs and opportunities, said Ostrum.

Connealy agreed. "I think there is a pile of opportunity and the gap between good cattle and bad cattle gets wider all the time," he said.

For those focused on raising good cattle, panelists shared ways those producers could earn more money

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and stay profitable. For many of them, genetics were key. Goggins said the number one thing to consider is buying good bulls with genetic value.

"Those invested in the feeding industry, we know the people who buy good bulls. We know the people who have watched their Ps and Qs as far as not only carcass but performance and fertility and everything," said Goggins.

Connealy takes those superior genetics and quantifies them through AngusLink's Genetic Merit Scorecard. Understanding exactly what kind of bulls those producers bought and how those cattle are geared, it's easy to make a connection and know where cattle would fit best, said Connealy.

"We work pretty closely with customers, so I don't know who else would be better versed to do that [match cattle to buyers] rather than the genetic guy in the equation," said Connealy.

Willis said commercial producers have opportunities to capture more value if they start thinking about marketing. He stressed that marketing is what sets themselves apart on sale day.

"I think as cow-calf producers, we must put our marketing caps on," said Willis. "We work our tails off every day doing the daily jobs, but when it comes to marketing, I think we fall short."

Cow-calf producers also need to find the right seedstock producer and build a relationship with them. Seedstock providers needs to know what works and what we need in our operation said Willis. Connealy adds that producers should get behind a program that already aligns with their goals to help build consistency in their operation. Ostrum said he purchases program cattle because of their consistency.

"The most predictable cattle I buy on an annual basis are cattle who have tied to a program year after year after year and are taking some advice and some counsel from the seedstock producer," said Ostrum.

Flipping the script, seedstock producers can communicate with their customers to build relationships and help them be successful. One step can be helping their customers interpret the

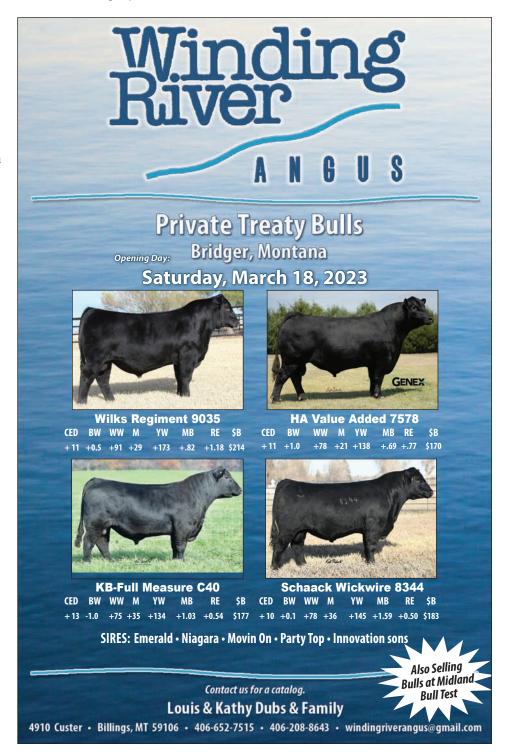
important data needed for bull buyers to make better decisions based on their environment and situation, said Ostrum. For Goggins, he said people buy people they like, know and trust.

"We all work in the agricultural business, but we are also in the people business," said Goggins.

Through genetics and marketing programs, the panel shared several tactics and thought processes

commercial cattlemen can use to grow their operation. At the end of the day, getting better might just mean doing something new.

"Let's get out of that paradigm and dare to do something no matter what part of the world you're in," said Ostrum. "Look at those different opportunities and dare to do something different."





#### 2022 NILE Angus Female Sale Report

OCTOBER 22, 2022 • BILLINGS, MT • SALE MANAGER: RON FRYE MARKETING • AUCTIONEER: JOE GOGGINS

Lots	Gross	Average	
43 Open Heifers	\$277,750.00	\$6,459.00	
17 Bred Heifers	\$194,750.00	\$11,455.00	
1 Bred Cow	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	
61 Total Registered Females	\$488,000.00	\$8,000.00	
41 Embryos	\$22,650.00	\$781.00	
2 Pregnancies	\$19,500.00	\$6,500.00	
20 Semen (units)	\$11,000.00	\$550.00	
70 Reported Sale Total	\$541,150.00	\$7,730.00	

#### **Top Open Heifers**

Lot 9 -Basin Rita 2003 - \$25,000 Sire Name: Basin Payweight Plus 6048 Buyer: Willikes Angus, Choteau, MT Seller: Basin Angus, Joliet, MT

Lot 6 - BCC Miss Candy 39K - \$15,000 Sire Name: 5T Power Chip 4790 Buyer: Flesch Angus Kids - Shelby, MT Seller: Baragree Cattle Co, Absarokee, MT

#### **Top Bred Cow**

Lot 53 - Diamond Lady Denver F365 \$15,500.00

Sire Name: Basin Payweight 1682 Buyer: Miller Angus Farms - Estelline, SD Seller: Stevenson's Diamond Dot - Hobson, MT

#### **Top Bred Heifers**

Lot 25 - JCH Lucy 1178 - \$40,000 Sire Name: Sitz Logo 12964 Buyer: Baldridge Performance Angus, NE, Rossman Farms Genetics, MN Seller: JC Heiken & Sons, Broadview, MT

Lot 26 - JCH J&K Polly 1600 - \$27,500.00 Sire Name: Heiken Broadview Buyer: Hart Angus Farm - Frederick, SD Seller: JC Heiken & Sons - Broadview, MT

Lot 8 - Basin Joy 1219 - \$20,000 Sire Name: Basin Deposit 6249 Buyer: A & K Bertrand, NE Seller: Basin Angus Ranch - Joliet, MT Lot 49 - Sitz Elsimere 76J - \$20,000 Sire Name: Sitz Resilient 10208 Buyer: Stock Ranch - Bozeman, MT Seller: Sitz Angus, Dillon, MT

## MT & WY FALL SALE REPORT

Bulls	3,104	\$6,082.00
Reg Females	1,451	\$6,117.00
Com. Bred Heifers	7,241	\$2,038.00
Com. Bred Young Cows	2,352	\$2,252.00



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January/February 2023





The 11th Annual NILE Angus Heifer Futurity was the highlight I of the 2022 Angus events held during the NILE stock show in Billings, MT. The show is designed to profile the development of the open heifers purchased through the Montana Angus Association's NILE Angus Female Sale. The show is open to Angus Juniors who purchased and registered a heifer in their name from the previous year's NILE Angus Female Sale.

Payouts are based upon entries and the 2022 show had 9 head shown by 9 juniors. All participants received a coat, & cash award. Every Junior received at least \$200 for participation. Grand Champion received \$1,000 and Reserve Champion received \$800. If you're a Montana Angus Junior member and purchased a female or bred heifer through the 2022 Sale, look for an entry form for the 2023 Futurity Show in the NILE premium book The show premium is published each year by mid-summer. A big thanks goes out to the judges,: Darrell Stevenson, Thomas Hamilton, and Jenna Sidwell and the Futurity coordinator, Jake Callantine.

\$1,000 was awarded to the 2022 NILE Grand Champion Futurity Female. OCC Lady 1960 is owned by Colter Meads of Hermiston, OR, and the heifer was bred by Olson Cattle Company of Saint Ignatius, MT. OCC Lady 1690 is the daughter of Square B Atlantis 8060..

# Grand Champion Reserve Champion



\$800 was awarded to the 2022 NILE Reserve Champion Futurity Female. Basin Elba Merrick 1215 NE is owned by Connor Cook of Huntley MT, and the heifer was bred by Basin Angus of Joliet, MT. Basin Elba Merrick 1215 NE is the daughter of Conley Express 7211.



Pictured (not in order): Wacee Simenson, Preslee Flesch, Colter Meads, Dalton Chambers, Kealyn Cahoon, Colter Raymond, Caitlynn Poser, Connor Cook, and Jaeda Paul.



**BCC American Express 38J won Reserve Grand** Champion Bull at the 2022 Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Oct. 21 in Billings, Mont. Barragree Cattle Co., Absarokee, MT and JL Farms Inc., Billings, MT, own the February 2021 son of Conley Express 7211. He first claimed Reserve Junior Champion. Dan Fawcett, Fee Heights, SD, evaluated the 85 entries.



Whiskey Brae 0264 won Reserve Grand Champion Bred-and-Owned Bull at the 2022 Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Junior Angus Show, Oct. 20, in Billings, MT. Grace Elverud, Charlo, MT, owns the January 2022 son of Mill Brae Benchmark 9016. He first claimed calf champion. Amanda Schnoor, Chowchilla, CA, evaluated the 78 entries.



Redline Legacy won Reserve Grand Champion Bredand-Owned Female at the 2022 Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Junior Angus Show, Oct 20 in Billings, MT. Helaina Fowler, Lewistown, MT, owns the March 2021 daughter of SAV Constitution 8054. She earlier won Junior Champion. Amanda Schnoor, Chowchilla, CA, evaluated the 78 entries.



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#### February 2023

- Private Treaty Winter Bull Sale: Green Mountain Angus Ranch Ryegate, MT • (406) 220-1975 • www.GreenMountainAngus.com
- 4 1st Annual Beartooth Angus Bull Sale Billings, MT 1pm (406) 794-1287 www.BeartoothAngus.com
- 9 Wittkopp Angus Annual Bull Sale Glasgow, MT 1pm (406) 974-3552 (406) 228-9306 www.WittkoppAngus.com
- 16 McNamee/Cook Angus Ranch Sale Miles City, MT 1pm (406) 224-1790 • www.McNameeAngusRanch.com
- 21 Coleman/Trexler Angus Ranch Bull Sale Missoula, MT Five Valley 1pm (406) 363-8818 (406) 728-3052 (406) 240-2751 (406) 833-0117 www.ColemanAngus.com
- 23 Cattleman's Advantage Bull Sale Manhattan, MT 12pm (406)580-1606 www.VDAR.com
- 24 Skinner Ranch Seedstock Annual Production Sale Hall, MT 1pm (406) 288-4001 www.SkinnerRanch.com
- 25 Never Sweat Ranch Production Sale Five Valleys Livestock Missoula, MT • 1pm • (406) 728-3052 www.NeverSweatRanch.com
- 27 Circle L Angus Production Sale Beaverhead Livestock Auction Dillon, MT • 1 pm • (406) 832-3535 www.CircleLAngus.com
- 28 JC Heiken & Sons Angus Annual Production Sale Miles City Livestock Miles City, MT 1pm (406) 855-7839 www.JCHeikenAngusAndSons.com
- 28 Connelly Angus Ranch Valier, MT 1pm (406) 279-3569 (406) 899-3826 www.ConnellyAngus.com

#### **March 2023**

- 1 Ox Bow Ranch Annual Bull Sale Wolf Creek, MT 1pm (406) 235-4281 www.OxBowRanchAngus.com
- 2 Split Diamond Ranch Annual Bull Sale Dillon Livestock Auction • Dillon, MT • 1pm • (406) 581-0612 • (406) 498-3005 www.SplitDiamond.com
- 3 Reminisce Angus Ranch Annual Bull Sale Dillon, MT 1pm (406) 925-1416 (406) 683-6363 www.RemAngus.com
- 4 3C Cattle Annual Bull Sale Stevensville, MT 1pm • (406) 360-1875 • (406) 544-0043 www.BullsOfTheBitterroot.com
- 6 Clear Creek Angus Production Sale Chinook, MT 1pm (406) 399-0403 (406) 399-5335 (406) 357-2286 www.ClearCreekAngus.com
- 7 Veltkamp Angus Annual Bull Sale Manahttan, MT 1pm (406) 539-8564 www.VeltkampAngus.com

- 7 Apex Angus Value Added Production Sale Valier, MT 1pm (406) 279-3548 (406) 799-7027 (406) 799-7026 (406) 899-7982 www.ApexAngus.com
- 8 Sitz Angus Ranch Spring Bull Sale Dillon, MT 12pm (406) 683-5277 www.SitzAngus.com
- 11 44th Annual Duncan Ranch Production Sale Joplin, MT 1pm (406) 399-6300 (406) 945-0785 (406) 399-6312 www.DuncanRanch.com
- 11 Thousand Hills Angus Annual Bull Sale Headwaters Livestock • Three Forks, MT • 1pm • (406) 581-2078 www.ThousandHillsAngus.com
- 13 Pine Coulee Angus Annual Bull Sale Wagon Box Ranch Hardin, MT • 12pm • (406) 780-1230 • (406) 855-2832 www.PineCoulee.com
- 14 Stevenson's Diamond Dot Annual Production Sale Hobson, MT • 11am • (406) 374-2250 • (406) 366-9023 www.StevensonsDiamondDot.com
- 15 Stevenson Angus Spring Production Sale Hobson, MT (406) 423-7500 www.StevensonAngus.com
- 17 Montana Performance Bull Coop w/ Basin Angus
  Midland Bull Test Columbus, MT 1pm (406) 350-0350
  (406) 366-3612 (406) 366-0688 (406) 450-2332
  www.BasinAngus.com
- 18 Winding River Angus Private Treaty Opening Day Bridger, MT • 12pm • (406) 652-7515 www.WindingRiverAngus.com
- 18 South Montana Angus Association Performance Sale Ramsey, MT 1pm (406) 431-1009
- 18 Gnerer Angus Bull Sale Olive, MT 1pm (406) 498-6113 www.GnererAngus.com
- 18 Nueta Cattle Co. Bull Sale Busby, MT 11am-2pm (406) 679-0013 (406) 679-0099 www.NuetaCattle.com
- 20 Whistling Winds Angus Bull Sale Hingham, MT 1pm (406) 390-1471 www.WhistlingWindsAngus.com
- 21 Rocking L Genetics & Snowy Mountain Angus Sale Lewistown Livestock Lewistown, MT 1pm (406) 350-1059 (406) 951-0212 (406) 366-0292
- 22 Peterson Grain & Cattle Bull Sale 32116 Rd. 230N, Havre, MT 1pm (406) 245-0889 (406) 945-2717 www.PetersonGrainAndCattle.com
- 23 Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch Annual Bull Sale Sidney, MT • 1pm • (406) 798-3355 • (406) 798-3541 www.GDAR-Angus.com
- 23-24 Vermilion Ranch Angus Spring Production Sale PAYS Billings, MT 11am (406) 670-0078

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- (406) 861-5664 www.VermilionAngus.com
- 25 Lund's B Bar Angus Annual Bull Sale Bull Palace Baker, MT • 1pm • (406) 978-3634 • (406) 978-3633 www.LundsBBarAngus.com
- 27 Larsen Ranch Angus Annual Bull Sale Forsyth, MT 1pm (406) 351-1412 (406) 351-9828 www.LarsenRanch.com
- 27 Harrer's Lost Lake Ranch "In the Real World" Sale
  Western Livestock Great Falls, MT 1pm (406) 899-9061
  (406) 737-4315 www.HarrersLostLakeRanch.com
- 27 Cole Creek Angus Ranch Annual Bull Sale
  Midland Bull Test Columbus, MT 1pm (406) 839-7588
  (406) 962-3743 www.ColeCreekAngusRanch.com
- 28 Bar JV Angus Bull Sale Fairview, MT 1pm (406) 798-3398 www.BarJVAngus.com
- 30 Cactus Cattle Company Bull Sale Belle Fourche, SD (406) 891-5811 www.CactusCattleCo.com

#### **April 2023**

- 1 Reisig Cattle Production Sale Hardin, MT 1pm (406) 350-1800 www.ReisigCattle.com
- 3 FBA Ranch Bull Sale Havre, MT 1pm (406) 459-6891 • (406) 570-8646 • www.FBARanch.com
- 4 Hinman Angus Annual Bull Sale Malta, MT 1pm (406) 654-1809 www.HinmanAngus.com
- 5 Nissen Angus Annual Bull Sale Blaine County Fairgrounds Chinook, MT • (406) 357-2643 • www.NissenAngus.com
- 6 Arntzen Angus Ranch Production Sale Hilger, MT 1pm (406) 462-5557 www.ArntzenAngus.com

- 7 Midland Bull Test Angus Day Midland Bull Test
  Columbus, MT 1pm (406) 322-9911 (406) 322-5597
  www.MidlandBullTest.com
- 8 Rambur 45th Annual Bull Sale Sidney, MT 1pm (406) 489-3255 www.RamburChar.com
- 10 C Spear Angus Annual Bull Sale Billings, MT 1pm (406) 670-0689 (406) 670-6311
- 11 Hilltop Angus Ranch Denton, MT 1pm (406) 366-3461 www.HilltopAngus.com
- 13 Pass Creek Angus Bull Sale Wyola, MT 12pm (406) 343-2551 www.PassCreekAngus.com
- 14 Regency Acres Bull Sale Lambert, MT 1pm (406) 774-3702 www.RegencyAcres.com
- 18 Treasure Test Bull Sale Western Livestock Great Falls, MT 1pm (406) 788-9869 www.TreasureBullTest.com
- 21 DeGrand Angus Bull Sale Baker, MT 1pm (406) 775-8861 www.DeGrandAngus.com
- 21 Timber Line Ranch "Bred for Business" Bull Sale Manhattan, MT 1pm (406) 388-2408 www.TimberLineAngus.com
- 27 North Country Bull Sale Glasgow Stockyards Glasgow, MT (406) 288-9306 North Bench Livestock
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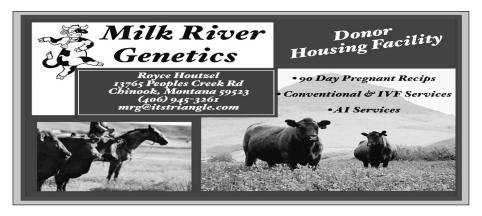
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HOME AWAY FROM HOME TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST BEEF BULLS

#### February 2023

- 1 Beggar's Diamond V Wibaux, MT
- 13 Felton Angus Ranch Big Timber, MT
- 16 Miske Angus Ranch Glendive, MT
- 22 Stortz Angus Ranch Glendive, MT
- 23 VanDyke Angus Ranch Manhattan, MT
- 25 Never Sweat Ranch Missoula, MT
- 28 Connelly Angus Ranch Valier, MT

#### March 2023

- 1 Ox Bow Ranch Wolf Creek, MT
- 3 Reminisce Angus Ranch Dillon, MT
- 7 Apex Angus Ranch Valier, MT
- 9 Wheeler Mtn Ranch Whitehall, MT
- 15 Stevenson Angus Ranch Hobson, MT





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SELLING 40 REGISTERED ANGUS BULLS & 40 REGISTERED + COMMERCIAL HEIFERS



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*Customer Service*- Providing health, feedlot and grid performance data for our customers for over 25 years.

**Reminisce Cows**~ Cow herd performance starts with measuring structural soundness and disposition. If these 2 traits aren't in order, it doesn't matter how fertile she is or how big of calf she can raise.

Reminisce Bulls- Born and raised in altitudes above 7,000.' Developed on a 41 mega cal ration; Summered in big sage brush pastures to learn to travel in big country.

How Good are Your Cattle?

Bragging rights on performance begin and end on the rail. On that day you will know how healthy they were, how well they gained, how well they converted, and how well they will taste to a consumer that doesn't know you. We all sell our cattle by the pound and on that day you will be paid accordingly. Do you know how good your cattle are? Reminisce Angus customers do. They have the data. They have the bragging rights.



#### Hoover Dam



#### Musgrave Aviator



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DC W M 90 +2

DOB: 01/30/2012 M MB RE

Annual Bull Sale

**MARCH 3, 2023** 

1:00 PM at the Big West Feeding Facility, Dillon, Mont.

165 Head Sell Including 35 Embryo Bulls

BRYAN & MARCIA MUSSARID

6101 Sweetwater Rd. Dillon, MfT o 406-925-1416 o 406-683-6363 o bryanmussard 406@gmail.com

#### Selling 100 Angus Bulls & 100 Replacement Heifers





reg: 19249584 tattoo: 8054 calved: 02/17/2018 WWBWMarb RE +1.0 +76 +119 +16 -.25 +.89 +56 +68



Milk

+34

Marb

+.28

+73

+80

+67

+87

WW

+86

+148

CED

BW

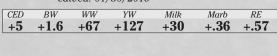
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**Annual Production Sale** 

**Lunch at Noon** 

3 miles south of Denton, Montana





Sale at 1:00 p.m.



Contact us for your Sale Book!

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250 Yearling Bulls 250 Commercial Heifers March 23, 2023

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