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January 2016

**Farm & Ranch
Monthly Magazine**

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Pictured are Best Angus Ranch cows
grazing in the fields one early morning.

North Dakota Rancher Tony Stroh Recalls a Lifetime of Working with Cattle and Meeting New People

By Meagan Dotson

Tony Stroh was born on a farm in Dunn County in 1930 and moved to Gladstone, ND nine years later; when he was about thirteen years old, he and his family moved to Killdeer, ND, where he still lives.

"I've always liked cattle. When I was a kid I was raised in town and I always wanted to raise cattle. I became involved in 4-H and showed Hereford cattle," said Stroh. "Herefords were popular back in those days and they have paid for more ranches than any other breed."

When he was in high school, he started working for ranchers, gaining experience and learning a variety of ways to do things on a ranch.

"I met a lot of nice, honest people that were good to work with," Stroh recalled, and after 65 years of ranching, meeting new people is still what he enjoys most.

In 1950, Stroh bought 1,200 acres of wheat field and ten head of registered cattle and that was the beginning of Stroh Herefords. He spent the early years 'building the place up' and he and his wife Leona were married in late 1950; their house was up on skids for the first year of their marriage, which Stroh recalls being quite cold. In 1951 they got electricity. Stroh had to build out buildings, plant trees, and dig wells and dams; Leona hauled water to the house for eight years before they had running water.

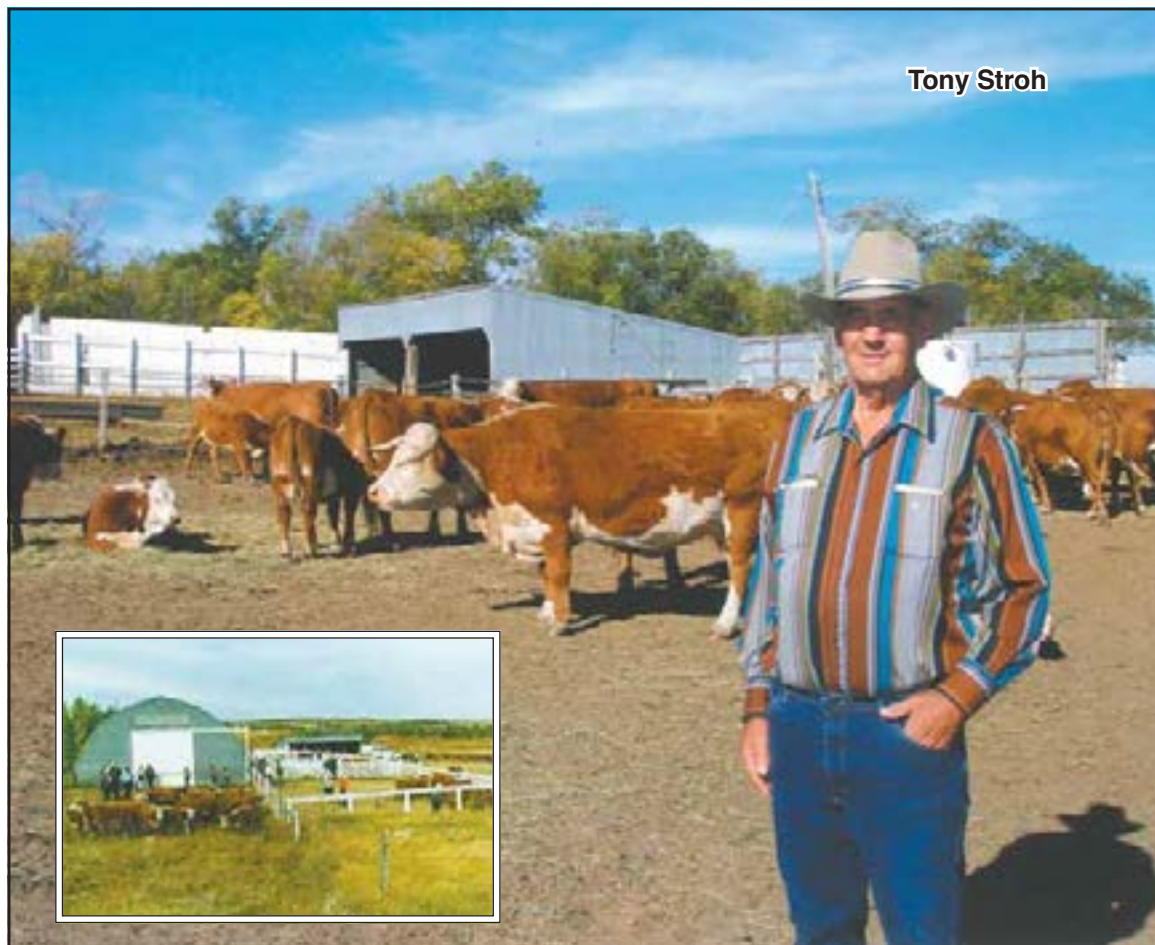
It isn't surprising that Stroh instilled a hard work ethic into his children and grandchildren. Some of his favorite memories are of helping his kids through 4-H and being a 4-H leader. Two of Stroh's daughters were crowned Hereford Queens and he remembers taking them to meetings, state fairs, and cattle sales. He was awarded North Dakota Hereford Breeder of the Year in 2005 and received a 4-H Leader award for the highest selling bull at the State Association Sale. He has served on the Dunn County ASC Board as a board member and as chairman, he was on the North Dakota Hereford Association Board, the Killdeer Area Development Association, the FFA Advisory Committee, and has sold bulls in five states and Mexico.

Over the years Stroh purchased land from neighbors and today, between what he owns and what he rents, Stroh Herefords is operated on 3,000 acres and throughout the years he has watched change and progress in ranching.

"In the registered Hereford business, performance records and EPDS have changed a lot. There is a lot more computers and technology than when I started. When I was a kid they were using horses to cultivate corn and mow and stack hay and today it's all done with machinery," he said.

Tony and Leona Stroh are now retired and living at the nursing home in Killdeer near family and friends. Tony Stroh is still involved in the business and still enjoys spending time visiting with people. Ranching is a lifestyle that has been taken up by their sons Mike and Dave who are both involved in the cattle industry. Mike, his wife Dawn, and sons Lucas and Matthew ranch north of Manning; Dave and his wife Deb ranch north of Killdeer with their kids living in Fargo and Mandan. This year will be Stroh Herefords 26th Annual Production Sale and third three-generation sale, with Tony, Mike, and Matt Stroh all marketing cattle.

When asked what advice he would give after 65 years of ranching, Stroh replied, "Do what you like to do and you will always do good."



Tony Stroh



Leona and Tony Stroh were married in 1950, the same year they began ranching.

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Get Ready For The Glendive Agri-Trade Expo

Submitted by Brandon Theony

38 years in a row is a charm. The Glendive Agri-Trade Expo is again heading our way Feb. 12 & 13, 2016 at the Eastern Plains Event Center located at 313 S Merrill Street in Glendive.

Several new and many repeat vendors gather to showcase their businesses at this Glendive tradeshow arriving from Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Minnesota, Idaho, and Canada. The agricultural industry is alive and well and new technologies and innovations keep the industry viable and growing. Tradeshows like GATE keep farmers and ranchers apprised of industry trends and give us an opportunity to gather and visit with friends and neighbors while learning about industry changes and challenges.

Following last year's success of the Rangeland and Cropland weed seminars, they will again be hosted from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 12. These seminars qualify attendees for private & commercial applicator points and will host a series of knowledgeable speakers. A Saturday seminar will feature family financial planning from 1-3 p.m.

The popular gun raffle prizes this year are: Grand Prize: Weatherby Vanguard Deluxe 30-06 Walnut Monte Carlo Style Stock with Burris Eliminator III 4-16X50mm Scope.

1st Prize: Ruger 77/17 Hornet 24" Heavy Barrel SS/LEU VX-2 Riflescope 4-12X40mm Silver. 2nd Prize: BPS Medallion Bottom ejection 12 Gauge Shotgun.

Changes in GATE this year, there will be no banquet/speaker or dance this year and the focus will be solely on the tradeshow and seminars. Once again, great food will be available both days by the Gateway Cowbells and live interviews of vendors and participants will be heard by KXGN and Northern Ag Network.

Please contact any GATE member or contact 406-987-3777 with any questions or for more information. There are still vendor opportunities available so join us for an annual event as we celebrate 38 years promoting Montana's #1 industry – Agriculture.

Glendive motels are offering room blocks especially for GATE. See the website for a list of special rates. www.gatexpo.com.

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Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch (GDAR) is located just on the outskirts of Sidney, MT, a close-knit family run ranch that focuses on raising efficient and functional cattle bred for the commercial cattle operation. GDAR began in 1957 when Joe Gartner and Russel Denowh bought 20 head of registered Angus cows from a dispersion sale in Montana. In 1974, Russ and his son, Micky, bought out Joe Gartner but kept the commercial name. At this time, they were calving about 150 cows and selling around 60 bulls per year. Russell's other son, Paul, joined the operation in 1984.

GDAR expanded in 1990 when the Blue Mountain Ranch was purchased. This purchase added 13,000 acres of native range and is used for summer grazing.

Micky, Paul, Casey and Chad Denowh all run the ranch together along with their families. GDAR is proud to be a family run operation, and they are now marketing 225 bulls a year. New methods and technologies have been added to the ranch since 1957, but the core principles behind the program remain the same.

GDAR is an operation made up of grazing land, but they also have some farmland on which they raise freed. The ranch calves around 800 cows and heifers each year, and with varying Montana weather with weeks of below zero temperatures and summer days reaching 100 degrees, their cows are expected to endure and thrive with mother nature.

In fall, GDAR's cows are fed a low cost and low energy diet to weed out any inefficient cows, which means cows that can't function on a low input system in their environment are culled from the herd. A majority of GDAR's bulls go to commercial operations in a similar environment to their own, and their goal is to make sure their bulls surpass their expectations.

While GDAR's environment and location is tough and can create a lot of extra work, they are able to test their genetics in such a harsh and varying location, meaning that GDAR can only make their genetics more functional, more efficient, and more profitable.

Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch has been family run for over 50 years, and they are proud of the business and cattle they have established in the community. Stop by and visit, or call them at 406-798-3541.



A crowd at Gartner-Denowh's first bull sale in 1968, held at the ranch.



Chad and Jennifer Denowh with daughters Danica and Cambree



Back Row: Paul, Casey, Mick, Chad, Jenn and Peyton. Front Row: Tracy, Debbie, Danica and Cambree.

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Gibbs Angus Ranch & Stortz Angus Ranch will Market Bulls at the Glendive Livestock Exchange Feb. 24



By Meagan Dotson

The Gibbs Angus Ranch and Stortz Angus ranch will be marketing 125 bulls at the Glendive Livestock Exchange on February 24th at 1:00pm. Owners Tim and Laurie Gibbs began raising bulls in 1982 and owners Ted and Tarena Stortz started raising bulls in 1990; they have been selling bulls together for the last thirteen years and both families having been involved in the cattle industry for multiple generations. The quality of their cattle is contributed to good maternal selection with an emphasis on disposition, udder quality, foot structure, and feedlot and carcass genetics. Their

cattle are expected to convert grass to pounds and calve unassisted: the cows raise their calves on pasture without supplementation. Both Gibbs Angus and Stortz Angus use their own herd sires and have received carcass results from their calves with 95% graded choice or higher and 40% qualified for Certified Angus Beef. For more information, contact Tim and Laurie Gibbs at 406-486-5608 or email them at gibbangus@midrivers.com or contact Ted and Tarena Stortz at 406-584-7585 or email them at sar@midrivers.com.

Isaak Angus Ranch: 20 Years in the Cattle Business

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

In the rolling green hills of Golden Valley, ND, you can find Isaak Angus Ranch. Isaak Angus has been in the ranching and farming business for 4 generations, with Ron Isaak and his wife Jackie being the current owners and operators. Isaak's great grandfather and grandfather homesteaded on the land and even built a brick house in 1925, which is still on the ranch to this day.

Isaak Angus Ranch has been raising registered Angus cattle for over 20 years, and one of their main philosophies is to always raise cattle that will work in the real world. "We really focus on our cow herd, paying close attention to feet, udder quality, and their disposition," said Isaak.

Tues., February 16 of 2016, Isaak Angus Ranch will be selling twenty 2 year old bulls at Stockmans West in Dickinson, ND at 2 p.m. Later in the year on Tues., May 3 at 1 p.m., Isaak Angus will be selling again at Stockman's West with 80 powerful yearling bulls and 70 fancy open heifers. You can call Isaak Angus Ranch at 701-983-4458.



Ron and Jackie Isaak together on Isaak Angus Ranch, pictured in front of their black Angus.

Leland Red Angus will Hold Their 33rd Annual Production Sale March 11

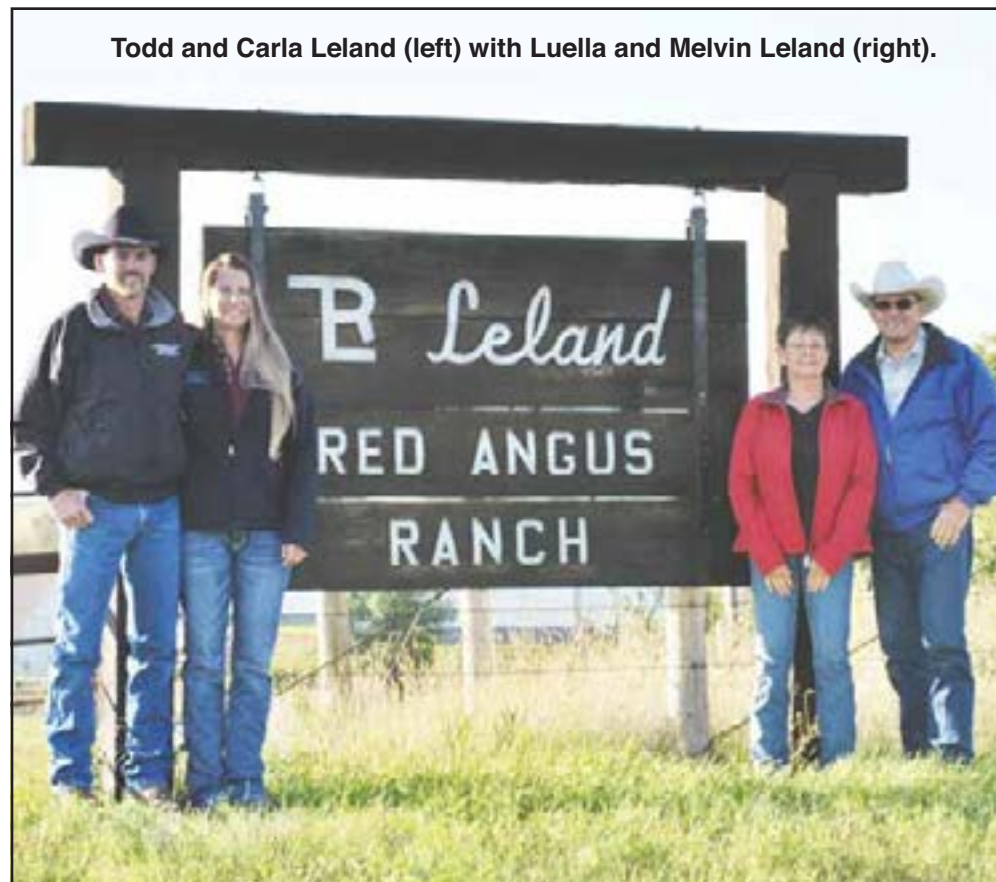
By Meagan Dotson

Leland Red Angus will be hosting their 33rd annual production sale on March 11 at the ranch located in SW McKenzie County, 35 miles SE of Sidney in the Squaw Gap Community. The ranch, which has raised registered Red Angus for 50 years, is operated by Melvin and Luella Leland and their son and daughter-in-law Todd and Carla Leland. Homesteaded in 1911 by Melvin Leland's father, Leland Red Angus breeds over 500 registered Red Angus females per year and will market 180 bulls and 65 yearling heifers, including about 40 fall born, 18 month old bulls from daughter Tracey Koester and her family in Steele, ND. The ranch operates on a combination of deeded, leased, and permitted National Grasslands and are regularly involved in national, state-wide, and local breed and beef industry organizations. Though the cowherd is managed on the range year-round, the sale bulls are developed in the ranch feedlot, with most of the feed being produced on 1200 acres of hay and cropland. Leland Red Angus is dedicated to developing wholesome, quality meat.

"Much of the herd is bred by artificial insemination and features genomic verification by DNA and ultrasound testing for economical relevant traits and carcass values, a service provided by our son-in-law Dr. JJ Hovde," commented Melvin Leland noting that they use as much technology as is applicable. "We are dedicated to the values of rural and family lifestyle and the 104-year legacy of the ranch is expected to continue as Todd and Carla become the third generation of Leland ownership."

For more information, call 701-565-2347.

Todd and Carla Leland (left) with Luella and Melvin Leland (right).



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JB Angus Will Have About 65 Bulls at the Stockman Livestock West Sale on March 5th

By Meagan Dotson

JB Angus will be at the Stockman Livestock West sale in Dickinson, ND at 1:00pm mountain time Saturday, March 5. Owners Jonathan Ficek and Bobby Kubas will be selling approximately 65 bulls with about 60 replacement heifers for sale through private treaty. Both Ficek's and Kubas' families have been ranching in the area for generations, and each of them have independent family operated ranches, but in 2013 the two men bought a herd of cattle from Tuhy Angus and established JB Angus. Their main focus is on raising seed stock for commercial cattlemen. The registered cows receive no special treatment and are run alongside the commercial cows and must maintain their place in the herd, making them structurally sound and acclimated to hard winters. Good maternal genetics are important and a lot of selection pressure is placed on the bulls. Cattle must have structural correctness, a calm disposition, and "real world genetics", such as promoting a live calf at birth, producing a calf that gains well on grass and milk, and one that will become a top replacement female.

"In our business we try to focus especially hard on customer service; 100% satisfied customers after every breeding season is our main goal. If a problem arises before, during, or after our sale, we will do whatever we can to make sure that the customer has had a positive experience with JB Angus. After all, without customers we do not have a bull sale and would not be able to continue to do what we love," said Ficek.

For more information, visit their website at www.jbangus.com or call 701-590-3598 or 701-590-9814.



JB Angus owners Bobby Kubas (left) and Jonathan Ficek (right).

A black and white advertisement for Fleetguard filters. The top half shows a Case IH truck driving on a dirt road. The bottom half shows a variety of Fleetguard filters, including cylindrical and pleated types, arranged on a surface. A text box on the left contains the headline and a paragraph about the filters. A small text box at the bottom left contains the slogan and a copyright notice. A Case IH logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the filter display.

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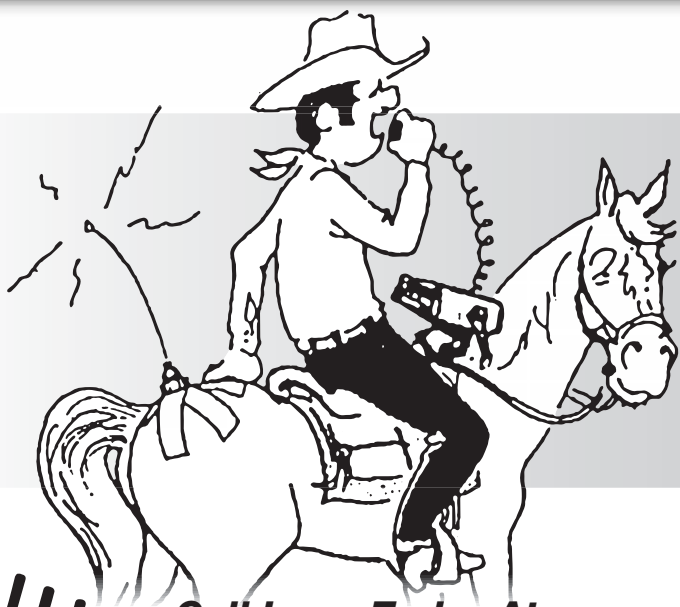
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The advertisement is split into two main visual sections. On the left, a red pickup truck is parked in front of a building. On the right, a person is riding a blue snowmobile through a snowy landscape. A large, stylized blue and white wave graphic separates the two images. The text "YOUR CURE FOR THE WINTER TIME BLUES" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, smaller text reads "WARM UP WITH OUR GREAT RATES AND FLEXIBLE TERMS ON YOUR NEXT NEW CAR, TRUCK OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE!". In the bottom right corner, there are logos for "LEADER" and "NCUA".

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North Dakota Rancher Carl Frisinger Enjoys the Mild Winter, Prepares for Upcoming Sale

By Meagan Dotson

The Early Morning Red Angus Ranch, located twelve miles south of Tioga, ND, will be marketing forty yearling Red Angus bulls and fifty yearling Red Angus heifers at Sitting Bull in Williston, ND, Friday April 29th at 1:00 pm central time. Owner and operator Carl Frisinger bought the ranch in 1965. Having grown up in a ranching family, Frisinger grew up raising Herefords. However, when they became hard to sell, he bought six Red Angus Cows from the Leland Drought Reduction Sale and started marketing Red Angus cattle in 1984 using Leland Red Angus bulls and Amber Light Red Angus bulls.

"Red Angus cows have a good disposition and good maternal qualities," said Frisinger, noting that the cows begin calving on their own in the hills in April and May. Calves are range-raised on the 2,050-acre ranch and the additional 5,000 acres Frisinger leases from a neighbor. November first, the calves are weaned and moved to the Sheldon Brothers Feedlot. "The Northwest Veterinary Clinic in Powers Lake makes sure they're all healthy. The quality of the cattle is second to none," he added.

The Early Morning Red Angus Ranch has a cow herd of 175, with 125 registered cows and 50 commercial cows. Part of the cattle are wintered on pastureland with coulees that provide protection from winter weather and two and three-year-old cattle are wintered at the homestead where they have access to barns during cold temperatures. Those interested are welcome to view the bulls at Sheldon Brothers Feedlot in Ray, ND. For more information, call 701-664-2668.



Three Generations of Strohs will Market Cattle at Their 26th Annual Production Sale

By Meagan Dotson

Stroh Herefords and Stroh Hereford Ranch will be holding their 26th annual production sale on Thursday, February 4th at 1:00pm mountain time at the ranch, located 1.5 miles east of the Killdeer Roundabout on Highway 200 and 5 miles west of Dunn Center, ND. Tony Stroh established Stroh Herefords in 1950 and owns it with his wife Leona. Stroh Hereford Ranch is owned by their youngest son Mike and his wife Dawn along with their sons Lucas and Matthew Stroh. Fifty-four Coming two-year-old bulls and ten bred Hereford heifers will be marketed. The Stroh Hereford Production Sale includes Tony Stroh, Mike Stroh, and Matthew Stroh, with 2016 being the third three-generation sale.

"Our cattle are range raised and have a gentle disposition. We take part in the Hereford Association's Whole Herd Inventory and keep all of the required records to do so. We also listen to our customer's wants and needs and keep their suggestions in mind when we purchase herd sires for ourselves," the family commented.

For more information, contact the Strohs at 701-573-4373, 701-290-1191, or email them at acmecatl@ndsupernet.com.



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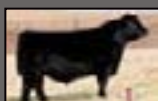
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Bar JV Angus Ranch



Cody, Dale and Jim Vitt out riding on Bar JV Angus Ranch.

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Bar JV Angus Ranch is a proud part of the argiculture community in the Mon-Dak area, and are located in the Sioux Pass Community halfway between Sidney and Culbertson, MT on highway 16. Many great people are involved in raising livestock in the area, and they feel it is a great responsibility to provide clients with genetics that will continue to improve their cowherd along with Bar JV's own.

Bar JV is a family run operation, operated by Jim and Loretta Vitt along with their son Dale Vitt and his wife Jill, and their children Cody, Emily and Kendall.

This year will be Bar JV's 7th Annual Production Sale; they are currently in the process of building their own sale barn and are excited to have people come back to their ranch this year. Bar JV has sold bulls by private treaty for 34 years and are very excited to be selling at home.

The Ranch started in 1975 when Loretta Denowh married Jim Vitt and brought her 4-H cow and calf with her. For 41 years, the operation has been run by family and now consists of 325 registered cows and 100 commercial cows. Along with their cattle, they also raise spring wheat, oats, millet, and grass hay to feed their cattle.

The program's focus at Bar JV is the mother cow. Their philosophy is that if you breed for a good cow she will raise good bulls. They select for balanced traits and they never chase a single trait. "Our cattle have to pass a visual inspection, something that sometimes gets overlooked. We are trying to leave you a great set of cows that will also add pounds to your calf crop," said Vitt. "Our main goal at Bar JV Angus is to raise cattle for the commercial cowman that focuses on what is important, low maintenance cows that will stay in the herd and produce pounds at weaning."

Another goal at Bar JV is that their cows should be able to take care of themselves; allowing them to graze until the weather forces them to feed. In the winter season, Bar JV feeds their cows alfalfa and grass hay along with beet pulp and corn silage. Calving begins on March 10 at Bar JV, allowing most of their herd to calve out in the pasture unassisted. Good dispositions and udder quality are top priorities in the business.

Bar JV Angus 7th Annual production sale will be held Wed., April 13 at the ranch. They will be selling 100 bulls and an offering of commercial heifers. Visitors are always welcome and you can call Bar JV at 406-798-3653.



Begger's Diamond V Ranch

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Wibaux, MT is home to Begger's Diamond V Ranch, where they have fundamental principles of cattle production and their branded cows have marginal room for error. This year will be Begger's 40th Annual Bull Sale and they look forward to selling their top quality Simmental and Angus breeds.

Begger's Diamond V is working to own top genetics that produce pounds on sale day. They believe that their clients' success is their success, and are always finding a way to improve their consistent black and solid colored Simmental calves. Ever since Bill Begger, owner of Begger's Diamond V, graduated from AI School, he has worked constantly on breeding a solid colored and black Simmental. "I was approached by a couple who were very established Simmental breeders who asked me, 'What the hell was I doing? What was I thinking?'" I was not to be swayed. This is what I told them, 'We are filling a market need. There are serious cowmen out there that would not use the colored Simmental but they were using the solid colored ones and were paying a premium for the black ones.' I went on to tell them we were going to focus on the black Simmental, and we would leave the multicolored cattle breeding up to them." Begger also wants to state that his cattle is no fad; the future of their breed will revolve around solid colored and more acceptable, predictable cattle.

Begger's Diamond V's focus and goals, however, have not wavered. Their main focus is the commercial cattle producer. Before any part of the industry is considered, their cattle must work for their clients. Begger's cattle need to calve easy, be vigorous at birth, and they need produce a bonus of weaning weight and value on sale day. "Our cattle need to be efficient feed converters that do it in any environment," says Begger. "We want them to be able to convert grass to pay weight on just grass and mother's milk". When it comes to replacement females, they likewise need to be quiet mannered, moderate sized, deep bodied cattle that are easy fleshing and fertile. Their females are expected to calve easy, raise a useful calf that has eye appeal, is uniform with its herd mates and has the genetic value to be in demand by the feeder, packer and the consumer.

Begger's cows are bred to add value to their clients' genetics, and their cattle will compliment any British bred program. Begger's is committed to only sell the best shows, each and every cow should add value to potential herds. Their bulls produce black hided, polled and solid patterned cattle, and will add uniformity and predictability to cattle that will work for everybody involved; from cow calf man, feeder, packer and even the consumer.

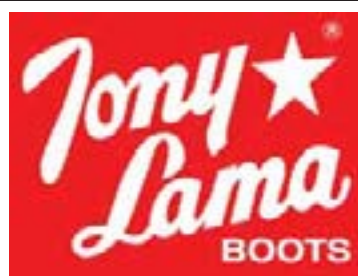
With 40 years in the business, Begger's knows that top quality cattle are more valuable than an average animal and they are still working hard to produce a better product for everyone involved in the industry. Satisfied customers are their top priority and they invite you to their sale day on February 3rd with steak sandwiches and refreshments available. Visit Begger's Diamond V Ranch or call them at 406-796-2326.



The Beggar clan is shown here: Back row left to right are Bill, Bob, little Charlotte, John and Harry. Front row left to right are Darlene, Virginia, Alicia, little Magdalene, and Elaine.

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- R 157K North Star 50W
- L3 Desert Frequency 118
- Churchill Captain 2128Z ET
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- DS Rendition 359W
- UU Harley 9130
- SR Vavarro 140X



SH Captain 402

This is a muscular smooth made 2128 son. He would be an excellent choice for heifers with an actual birthweight of 78 pounds. He is red to the ground and has pigment to burn. He would cross well with a set of black cows. BW 1.0, WW 44, YW 68, Milk 22, M&G 44, RE A .17, MAR B .13, CHB \$ 20



SHR L1 Domino 467

This is a very thick 2142 son. We have been impressed with this calf since he hit the ground. His grandmother is an AHA certified Dam of Distinction. His mother is an excellent producing young cow. His EPD's are: BW 3.1, WW 45, YW 76, Milk 27, M&G 49, REA .07, MARB .21, CHB \$23

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Regency Acres will Market About 90 Bulls and 40 Heifers at the Sidney Livestock Sale April 1st

By Meagan Dotson

Regency Acres, located eight miles southeast of Lambert, MT, will be marketing approximately 90 bulls and 40 heifers at the Sidney Livestock Sale, Friday April 1st beginning at 1:00pm. Regency Acres is owned and operated by Russ and Jill Thiessen along with their daughter Téa and son Tyler. Thiessen's family has been in the cattle business since moving to the area in the 1890s; Russ Thiessen's grandfather established the registered herd in 1957. Formerly the Thiessen Angus Ranch, it was changed to Regency Acres in 1981 and has grown to a herd of 230 mother cows.

"Regency Acres uses a very intense culling process based on multiple traits including disposition, udder and structural soundness, phenotype, carcass traits, calving ease and performance to try to offer a product that is labor free and productive," said Russ Thiessen, adding that the intelligence and disposition of a cow is extremely important and the result of a no-nonsense program. "The cow herd is run no different than any commercial operation where the cattle are required to work for their food, calve on their own, and raise a calf that performs and passes all the tests."

The cattle are summered on pastures and the calves are weaned off in October and put in a feedlot until sale day. All calves are carcass ultra-sounded and fertility tested prior to selling; yearling heifers are synchronized and Aled, and the rest of the cow herd is Aled for one cycle before the bulls are turned out with them. For more information, call 406-774-3702 or 406-480-5988.



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Rambur Charolais Angus Cattle

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Rambur Charolais is located just south Sidney, MT and was founded more than 30 years ago by Howard Rambur. When Howard started in the ranching industry, he wanted to work with a breed of cattle distinctly different from any other breeds in eastern Montana, so he chose the Charolais. The Charolais, at the time, was a relatively new breed to the area and it was still able to retain its full French heritage. Even though the breed grew quite large as adults, Howard had a goal to modify the Charolais to not only suit his customers, but to also ensure that the animals fit the Montana environment. The Charolais put on pounds quickly, which led to calving problems. Rambur then bred the animal down to a smaller frame, which led to calving ease. For decades, Rambur Charolais perfected their breed and they now have customers all over the country that use the Charolais bull on their first calf heifers.

Rambur's cattle have done well at the Denver Stock Show, have won top honors three times, and have even received Reserve Champion on several other occasions.

A Rambur Charolais cow's profile will have smooth shoulders for calving ease, sound feet and legs and good carcass structure. Cows are bred to be tough on the ranch, and have to be able to calve easy, flesh easy, and have fertility and structural soundness in the rough Montana climate.

At the end of the day, Rambur runs 250 Charolais cows as well as 100 head of Angus cows. The ranch also offers Angus bulls along with their famous Charolais bull program. The operation farms about 600 acres of corn and hay each, and includes an on-site feedlot. Stop by and visit Rambur Charolais, or call them at 406-482-3255.



Speaker Damian Mason is Scheduled to be This Year's Ag Days Entertainment March 3rd

By Meagan Dotson

The MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show, which was formerly held in January, has been moved to March 3rd and 4th in 2016. The two-day trade show will hold educational sessions at the Richland County Event Center featuring the latest and greatest information and developments for Agricultural producers such as GMOs, livestock, and horticulture. It will begin at 9:00am on March 3rd with the Sidney Sugar's Growers Meeting taking place that afternoon; this is the first year that Ag Days and the Growers Meeting will be held in conjunction. The social will begin at 5:00pm with the banquet to follow at 6:00pm. This year's entertainment will be speaker Damian Mason with his presentation of Humor for the Heart of Ag. Mason has been speaking for 21 years with over 1,600 appearances in all fifty states and eight foreign countries delivering his humorous, energetic, and informative presentations about Agricultural and Business

Reinvention. Mason grew up on a dairy farm and currently owns and manages a farm in Indiana; he graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Economics, is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and holds Certified Speaking Professional Designation with the National Speakers Association. On March 4th, the day will start with breakfast at 6:30am and the Trade Show will begin at 8:00am. The reason for the change of timing is largely due to the declining attendance over the last couple years, as January weather doesn't generally cooperate with the event that draws people from multiple counties and while calving could be an issue, the hope is to rejuvenate the annual event. Banquet Tickets will go on sale in mid-January and are available through the Extension Office. For more information, contact Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine at 406-433-1206 or email him at timothy.fine@montana.edu.



International speaker Damian Mason will be presenting Humor for the Heart of Ag, a highly entertaining and educational presentation focusing on Agricultural Reinvention.

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Best Angus & Quarter Horses

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Best Angus & Quarter Horses started as a 4-H and FFA project in 1987 with the purchase of a heifer from the placement pen at McCumber Angus Ranch. Many of the cows in the herd are descendants of the original heifer, Rosetta 622 of McCumber. Best Angus grew slowly focusing on quality. Pete and Vawnita Best worked together in building their business; Vawnita worked as a meat inspector and Pete worked as an Agricultural Lender. The Best's continued to keep top heifers as replacements and invested in a few elite females from ranches whose programs they respected.

Opportunity arose for Best Angus in 2007 when Pete and Vawnita moved to her parents', Kurt and Rita Hovet, ranch in the Badlands southeast of Watford City, ND. There, they started marketing bulls locally by private treaty in 2008. In 2014, Best Angus & Quarter Horses had their first annual production sale.

Currently, Best Angus runs about 250 registered cows. They AI approximately 50% of the cowherd and use the other 50% of the herd as recipient cows for their donor program. Best Angus believes firmly that by flushing their top cows, they can provide more quality bulls at a better value for their customers. Through this, they can also build a stronger herd that will fit their environment.

Best Angus believes that it is their duty to breed cattle that will make their customers' herds and lives better. Focusing on cattle that are going to easily maintain their flesh allows Best Angus to extend their grazing season, which in turn lowers costs and reduces labor. Calving ease and vigor are at the core of their breeding decisions, and they think cows and heifers should be able to calve under range conditions with no assistance and raise a healthy, heavy calf.

Structural soundness is important at Best Angus, especially when it comes to udders, feet and legs. They do not believe that beef cattle should have to be milked by hand to get a calf started. Best Angus also believes in not creep feeding their cattle; they want to know exactly what their cow did to contribute to the profitability of their ranch.

Best Angus has been ultra sounding for carcass traits since 1995 to make sure they are raising genetics to meet the consumers' needs. They want their customers to feel that they have received an exceptional value. Many of their customers are friends and neighbors, so they do not take their responsibility lightly.



Pete and Vawnita Best with their son Kyle, who all work as a family to run Best Angus and Quarter Horses.



Two beautiful black Angus pose for a photo at Best Angus Ranch.

Cow-calf Management School Set for Jan. 15

Submitted by NDSU Agriculture Communication

The NDSU Extension Service in McKenzie County will host a workshop Jan. 15, 2016, for cow-calf producers, particularly those who are new to beef cattle production.

This daylong cow-calf management school will cover forage production, cow nutrition, grazing management and the Veterinary Feed Directive through a combination of presentations, activities and problem-solving exercises. The program, held in the McKenzie County Courthouse in Watford City, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. central time.

Presenters and their topics are:

* John Dhuyvetter, area Extension livestock systems specialist, North Central Research Extension Center - cow requirements, feed alternatives, nutritional assessment, supplements and feed delivery, forage production for hay and silage, including yield, quality, and production costs of perennials and annuals, including corn silage,

hay and silage making principles, and forage testing.

* Karla Ryan, Extension agent, McKenzie County – body condition scoring, including herd management and winter weather nutrition, and the Veterinary Feed Directive including antimicrobial stewardship, veterinary client patient relationship, and record management.

* Danielle Steinhoff, Extension agent, Williams County, and Fara Brummer, area Extension livestock systems specialist, NDSU Central Grasslands Research Extension Center - principles of grazing management, extending grazing options, pasture rental, fencing and water solutions, carrying capacity and stocking rate determinations

The registration fee is \$20, which will cover lunch and materials. Preregistration is recommended. Register by emailing Karla at karla.ryan@ndsu.edu or by calling the Extension office in McKenzie County at (701) 444-3451.

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Gillian Lavik, MD
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call (701) 857-5764



Mark Noel, DO
Ear, Nose and Throat
Jan. 7th & 21st
For an appointment
call (701) 857-5986



Laura Greer, AuD
Audiologist
Jan. 7th & 18th
For an appointment
call (701) 857-5986



Aaron Albers, DPM
Foot & Ankle Specialist
Jan. 11th & 25th
For an appointment
call (701) 857-3584



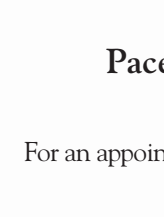
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Feiring Angus and Ash Coulee Ranch



Doug and Ceylon Feiring with their family, who all work together to make Feiring Angus Ranch successful.

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Three miles east of White Earth, ND, you can find Feiring Angus Ranch. Doug and Ceylon Feiring own Feiring Angus Ranch, along with sons, Brett and Brady, and daughter Shambre. One of their major philosophies is, "To never overstock pastures with more animals than the land can handle." Generation after generation from Feiring Angus has all received the same lecture. Feiring Angus does not use popular genetics in their breeding program, for they believe that cattle should adapt to mother nature the way that mother nature intended it. They strive to produce cattle that will return the most profit with the least input and labor.

Ash Coulee Ranch started in 1967 by Anthony Davis with the purchase of 13 heifer calves from the Bob Joyce dispersion. They calved from 100 to 140 registered angus cows a year depending on weather and the hay supply. As with Feiring Angus, Ash Coulee has always tried to raise cattle in touch with mother nature and the environment that Northern North Dakota will allow with very little extra supplement. Scott Davis bought the ranch from his father in 1980, and with the help from his family and his brother, Davis has continued the progress that his father started. Ash Coulee has selection pressure developed a cow herd that was very easy calving with excellent maternal traits, and has never been creep fed. The Ash Coulee cow must calve unassisted, raise a big calf, and breed back in time with what mother nature will allow. No exceptions.

Feiring Angus and Ash Coulee will be selling top quality bulls that fit their environment, calve easy and grow on April 16. Visitors are always welcome.

Feiring Cattle Company

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

Feiring Cattle Company located in Beach, ND, is a family run operation owned and managed by Donnie and Trisha Feiring, along with their two daughters, Harley and Taylor. Feiring's herd originates back to 1983 when Donnie purchased his first QAS Traveler 23-4, but heritage reigns throughout the company back to 1945 when Donnie's grandfather, Arnold Feiring, started his cowherd.

Today, Feiring Cattle Company's herd consists of 150 head of registered Angus cows that trace back to Shoshone Viking GD60, QAS Traveler 23-4, OCC Emblazon 854E and Fahren of Wye UMF 5830. "We have worked hard over the past 30 years to improve consistency and predictability in our herd. We feel we have been able to do this through using proven lines of genetics" said Donnie Feiring, who goes on to say, "In 2004 we purchased DDA Ledger 69D from Diamond D Angus at Valier, MT, and used him very heavily to build the foundation of our cowherd today."

Feiring Cattle's cowherd is selected for calm temperaments, fleshing ability, fertility, structural soundness, quality udders and a proper balance of milk and growth.

They do not creep feed their cattle because Feiring believes that cattle should be able to maintain flesh without extra feed. Their cows run on dryland pasture and native range in the rolling plains and Badlands along the North Dakota-Montana Border.

For several years, Feiring Cattle Compa-



Donnie and Trisha Feiring of Feiring Cattle Company along with their two daughters, Harley and Taylor.

ny has practiced Holistic Resource Management, and will always strive to raise cattle that are efficient, productive, uniform and consistent, trouble free, easy keeping and balanced. "We are always paying attention to how our operation affects the land and the soil. We are constantly improving our business to make the soil better and of course our cattle."

Visit Donnie and Trisha at Feiring Cattle Company, and call them at 701-872-5888.

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BeefTalk: Expanding Genetics and Electronic Bull Buying

The way bulls are sold is changing.

By Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist, NDSU Extension Service

Bull buying from your desk at home? It sounds far-fetched, but that is a very real option in today's bull market.

Each year, a new generation of bulls is offered for sale, along with more and better data regarding the bulls we buy. Last year's bull calves are growing up and will be ready for turnout in a few months.

Bull-buying basics are the same, so why bring up the subject? In reality, many producers do not take advantage of the data and tools available for buying bulls. Not all bulls are the same and certainly do not have the same value.

The process of determining the better bull brings good discussion and requires homework. Why? Simply put, years, if not decades, of visual selection based on how cattle look is the foundation of almost all breeding programs. For years, visual selection and pedigree review have been the status quo when buying bulls. This method remains today. It involves analyzing cattle and subjectively estimating how selected lines of cattle with known production capabilities will perform.

Those visual traits help determine the value of cattle as breeding stock and at sale time when the progeny are sold. But things changed, as long ago as 1963, when a group of producers formed the North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Similar associations were formed all across the country and, in concert with breed associations, today are the seeds of current data sets available for buying bulls.

The opportunity to buy local bulls and sort the best of the best remains. But producers still need to be proactive in learning new techniques to sort the best of the best because buying bulls is a crucial investment made with the expectations of good progeny. Dollars are often limited and are only spent once, so getting the right bulls is critical.

Today, the way bulls are selling also is changing. Video auctions are common. Sale bulls, presented with all available data, are guaranteed by the breeder. In many cases, the bulls are videoed and displayed on a website, so visual observations are made easily.

On sale day, the bull appears on the sale monitor and, with a click of the mouse, a producer can buy a bull anywhere, and I mean anywhere. Recently, I made plans to attend a sale only to find out that the bulls are no longer even brought into the ring. Large computer screens were set up on each side of the ring, and those present bid off the videos previously available on the website. I stayed home and bid from my own computer screen using the trusted mouse.

Actually, at the Dickinson Research Extension Center, the last time we purchased bulls in person was two years ago. We have signed up in advance with the online auction company, stayed home and bid.

Has the experience always been good? Most times, yes. Once the mouse was not as quick as the auctioneer, but that simply may be a learning curve for the auctioneer and producer. Either way, electronic bull buying works. Even more satisfying is that many bull sellers offer a significant opportunity for delivery.

So times are changing along with just how these bulls can end up at a beef producer's lot. However, the original concern to see the bulls in person always seems to come up in the conversation. How does one take the step to move away from history and move forward?

Goodness results when producers gather, visit, eat and share their thoughts. I am not suggesting that should end. When that is the most opportune way to buy bulls, use it. But if the wind is blowing, the snow is falling and the roads are closing, why not attend the bull sale from the comfort of your home? Sign up early and get approved for both options.

Think of how many calves, the progeny of the bulls one buys, are going to be sold via video auction? If the calves can sell, perhaps the bulls can, too. If a producer visits with the local auction barn, one certainly will obtain some good information of the various opportunities to market calves. And yes, the eye of the

buyer in many cases has switched to data. Using good data to buy calves and bulls is a good thing for buyers and sellers.

Producers are more and more accepting of reviewing the factual data of a bull and then adding the bull to the potential bid list or taking the bull off the potential bid list. In the coming weeks, an excellent activity is searching bull catalogs or websites for bulls, finding their registration numbers, looking up their available data and developing the bid list. Once the list is done, visit with the breeder, make arrangements to bid and only bid from the bid list. Avoid the bargains.

May you find all your ear tags.

For more information, contact <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news> or North Dakota State University Extension Service, NDSU Dept. 7000, 315 Morrill Hall, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050.

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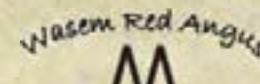
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The latest information on crop insurance will be presented at the North Dakota State University Extension Service's annual crop insurance conference in Fargo on Jan. 18. The conference will provide practical information for agricultural producers, and agribusiness professionals, as well as crop insurance agents.

A registration fee of \$110 includes a social on the evening of Jan. 17, and continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and conference materials on Jan. 18.

The conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Convention Center and starts at 8 a.m. with a session on ethics in the workplace.

Other conference topics are:

- Weather outlook for 2016
- Crop insurance issues in Washington
- Spring wheat margin protection
- Malt barley endorsement
- Economic outlook for 2016
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- Big data implications for crop insurance agents
- Dealing with data and drones: The legal challenges of farming in the future

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For more information or to register, visit <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmmanagement/> or call (701) 231-8642.

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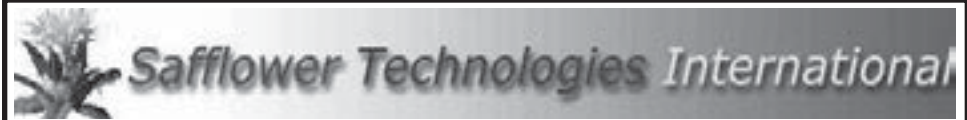
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