

Size, Stretch, Marbling, Muscling, Faster Gain Needed

Breed Better Animals, Angus Men Told

"We must accept the challenge to change our beef cattle. If we don't and the commercial cattleman can't find the kind of Angus bulls that will make him the most profit he will likely go to other breeds," Dr. Robert Totusek of Oklahoma State University told more than 500 registered Angus breeders attending the recent National Angus "Cattlemen's Challenge" Tour.

Totusek's remarks came at the conclusion of the tour at Island Farms near Afton, Oklahoma. And he was optimistic about the future. "We have

This news article from the American Angus Association illustrates the kind of thinking which is going on in relation to nearly all the beef cattle breeds today.

Specifically, cattle breeders are looking for big-framed animals which will put on meat in a hurry—at the rate of three to four pounds a day. Such fast growing animals are more profitable, they use feed more efficiently, and they allow for a faster turnover and therefore more profit.

The question for breeders and growers is how to get these fast-growing, high-profit animals.

Careful breeding, based on accurate records, and good management can do the job, the Angus Association points out in this article.

in Wichita, Kansas, and ended at Afton, Oklahoma, with a National Angus Judging Seminar, was a panel discussion of both registered and commercial cattle breeders. Much of the discussion centered around culling for more profit and breeding bulls that satisfy the best profit-conscious commercial cattle producers.

"What registered Angus breeders need to do is get more size and stretch in the top end of their cattle and cull off the bottom 25 per cent," Andy Ol-

son, a noted commercial Angus breeder from Council Grove, Kansas emphasized. "And we have to do this without losing the quality and marbling that Angus are noted for. While it isn't as easy to sell every kind of straightbred Angus feeder steer today as it was a few years ago, I have yet to find a packer who doesn't like to buy Angus for slaughter."

Angus breeders also have a responsibility to produce larger, faster gaining, more effi-


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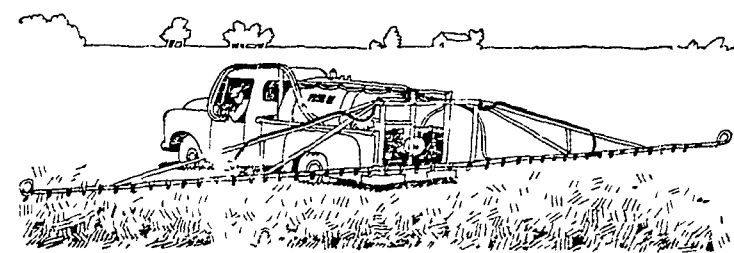


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seen on this Tour the need for a little more size, frame and growthiness in Angus cattle," he pointed out.

"The question is how do we get this change. I think we can and will do it through the use of both something old and something new. We have seen on this Tour how selective breeding and proper use of pedigrees can bring about high producing cow lines and families. We have seen the need for good judgment in selecting and breeding beef cattle, and we certainly have seen the need for production records. So we must use all these methods to accomplish the necessary change."

"The Challenge," Totusek emphasized, "is not just to make the changes, but to accomplish change intelligently and to guide it correctly using all the old and new tools we can muster."

Another highlight of the three day program which began

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