

## Angus AHIR Figures Reveal Weight Gains

The top 25 per cent of all Angus bulls measured in the American Angus Association's Angus Herd Improvement (AHIR) program through April 1972 have averaged 526 pounds at weaning, 963 pounds as yearlings and 1,183 pounds at 550 days of age, according to Lloyd D. Miller, executive secretary of the

American Angus Association.

"The figures, taken from the 272,472 weighings reported to the Association since the AHIR program started, show vast differences in growth rate within the breed and point up the outstanding gaining ability of the best Angust cattle," Miller said.

For example the top 25 per cent of yearling Angus heifers averaged 717 pounds at 365 days of age and 854 pounds at 550 days. "This means," Miller emphasized, "that these Angus females were large enough to breed at a year of age and could calve even before they were two years of age. This kind of growth rate and early maturity can help them produce one or two more calves during their lifetime."

On the other hand the low 25 per cent of the Angus heifers

averaged only 517 pounds as yearlings, 198 pounds less than the top 25 per cent. The spread at 550 days was about the same, 854 pounds for the top 25 per cent and only 650 pounds for the bottom 25 per cent. "These ranges occur in most Angus herds and easily pinpoint the animals that should be culled," Miller commented.

The spread between the top and bottom 25 per cent of bull calves at weaning (205 days of age) was less but still of major proportions. The top 25 per cent averaged 526 pounds compared with only 393 pounds for the bottom 25 per cent. At today's feeder cattle prices that's a difference of more than \$53 per head. These figures indicate two major things — the difference in mothering ability of cows as well as environmental differences

within a single herd and between herds.

Yearling weights are probably the best indicator of a bull's ability to grow fast and efficiently, and the top Angus bulls were at or near market weight at 365 days of age and were well into the most desirable weight range at 550 days.

At 365 days of age the top 25 per cent of the Angus bulls weighed 963 pounds compared with only 675 pounds for the bottom 25 per cent. At 550 days of age, which is the minimum age that most finished steers are slaughtered, the top 25 per cent of Angus bulls measured in AHIR averaged 1,183 pounds compared with only 847 pounds. "AHIR figures like these," Miller explained, "are a useful tool for any cattleman who wants to improve the growing ability of his calves, whether they are registered or commercial."

"Participation in the AHIR program continues to grow," Lloyd Miller reported. "And the Association has made changes to simplify the program and encourage even more Angus breeders to measure the production of their herds."

"Only recently," he said, "the Association announced a new national Angus Sire Evaluation program. In line with this, the AHIR program was modernized, the report forms simplified, and new ones were added. The forms will be used both for the sire evaluation program and regular participation in the AHIR program."

## Record Wheat Yield Forecast

The Pennsylvania winter wheat yield is forecast at 37 bushels per acre based on the June 1 condition of the crop. This would be a record high yield, one bushel above the previous record yields set in 1966, 1967, and 1971. Production is expected to be 11,211,000 bushels, up eight per cent from last year's estimated 10,296,000 bushels. Below normal spring temperatures retarded initial spring growth, however the crop made good growth during May.

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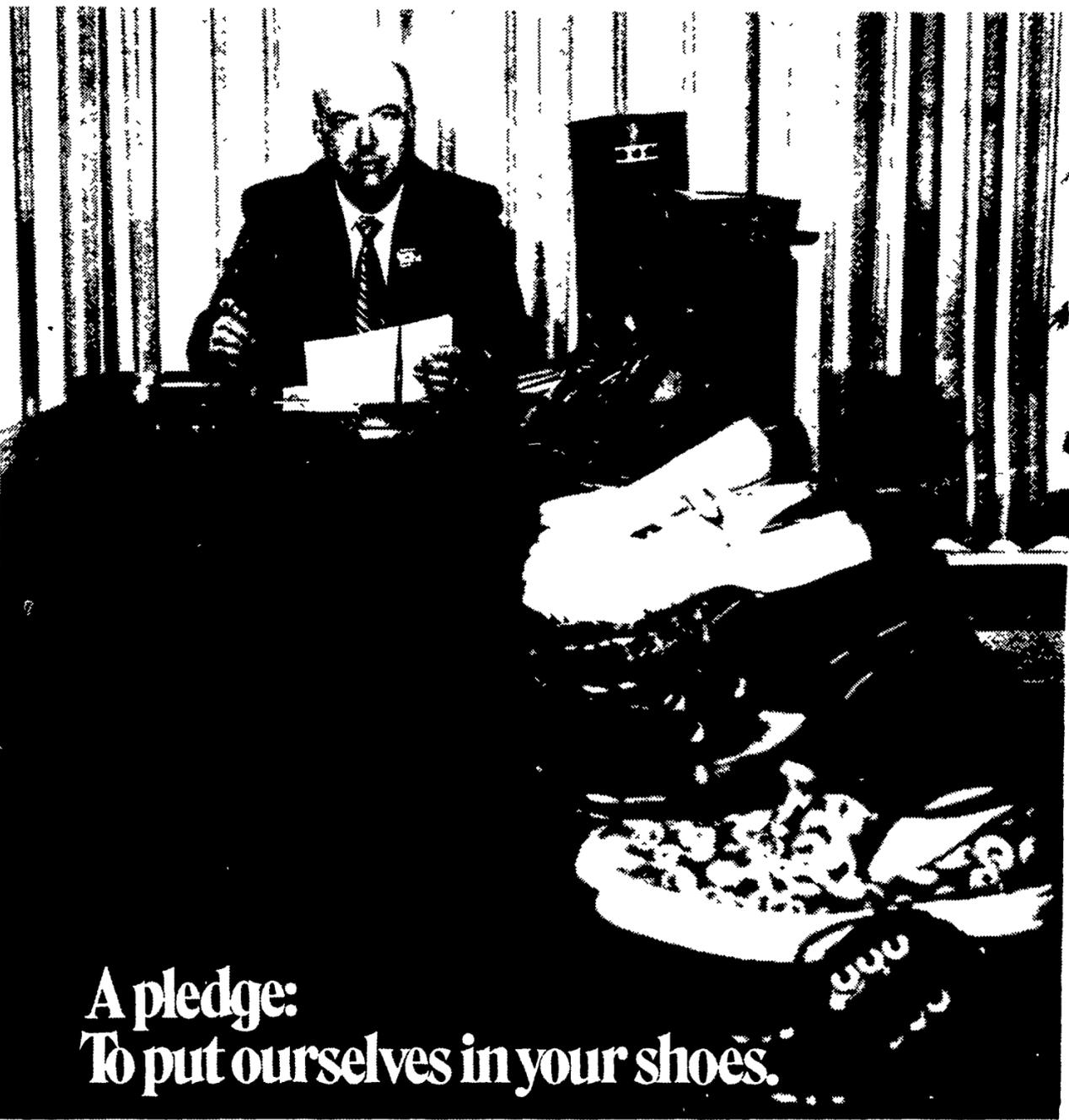
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