

# Twin calves born 17 days apart.

BY JOYCE BUYP  
Staff Correspondent

**RED LION** — An old Angus cow with a brand new calf and no milk to feed it might tempt most beef producers to make a quick trip to the auction

"My herdsman, Sylvester 'Boss' Rittenhouse, told me we might as well sell her for beef, since she still wasn't milking anything for two weeks," Ross Manifold remembers.

Manifold, who keeps 15 Angus cows on his 66-acre farm at R2 Red Lion, was reluctant to load up the 16-year-old ailing Angus for the haul to market. After all, she'd regularly produced a calf all those years, and her age wasn't really showing

Still, the fact remained the cow had no milk for the calf, and showed no interest in even trying to eat her grain, after dropping the 30-pound heifer calf on October 24. Within a few days, the calf had looked so hollow and seemed so hungry the Manifold began bucket feeding.

For two weeks, the cow barely picked at her feed, spending most of her time just moping on the straw bedding

"But by November 7, she started to eat a little better. She still didn't have any milk though."

Manifold continued to be puzzled over the condition of the reliable old brood cow.

On the morning of November 10, 17 days later Manifold walked to

the barn to check on the sick cow and found the last thing he expected.

She'd delivered a second calf during the night.

This new arrival was a bull, and was also small, weighing no more than 30 pounds.

And, finally, the cow had come into milk. It wasn't in sufficient quantity to satisfy both calves, so Manifold continued to supplement both with bucket feedings

Manifold believes that the two calves resulted from separate breedings, rather than a twinning.

His veterinarian, Dr. George Hartenstein of York, says such an occurrence could happen if one of the cow's ovaries had been impregnated, and against the normal cycle of nature, an egg had been released by the second ovary, and was fertilized.

Even more unusual would be the carrying to full term of two such separately conceived calves

"I don't know that anyone has ever done any statistical research on this, but the odds would have to be astronomical," Hartenstein says

He adds that in 40 years of veterinarian practice, this double pregnancy is a one-of-a-kind occurrence

Both calves, and recuperated mother, are doing well and have not been turned out to pasture with the rest of the herd, following a winter of confinement to the barn.

Manifold kept the calves on supplemental feedings until they

were six weeks old, and constructed a special creep feeder where they could get their regular ration of corn chop with a topping of commercial complete calf feed.

Still nursing the pair of calves, the cow is bred back and again due to freshen in November

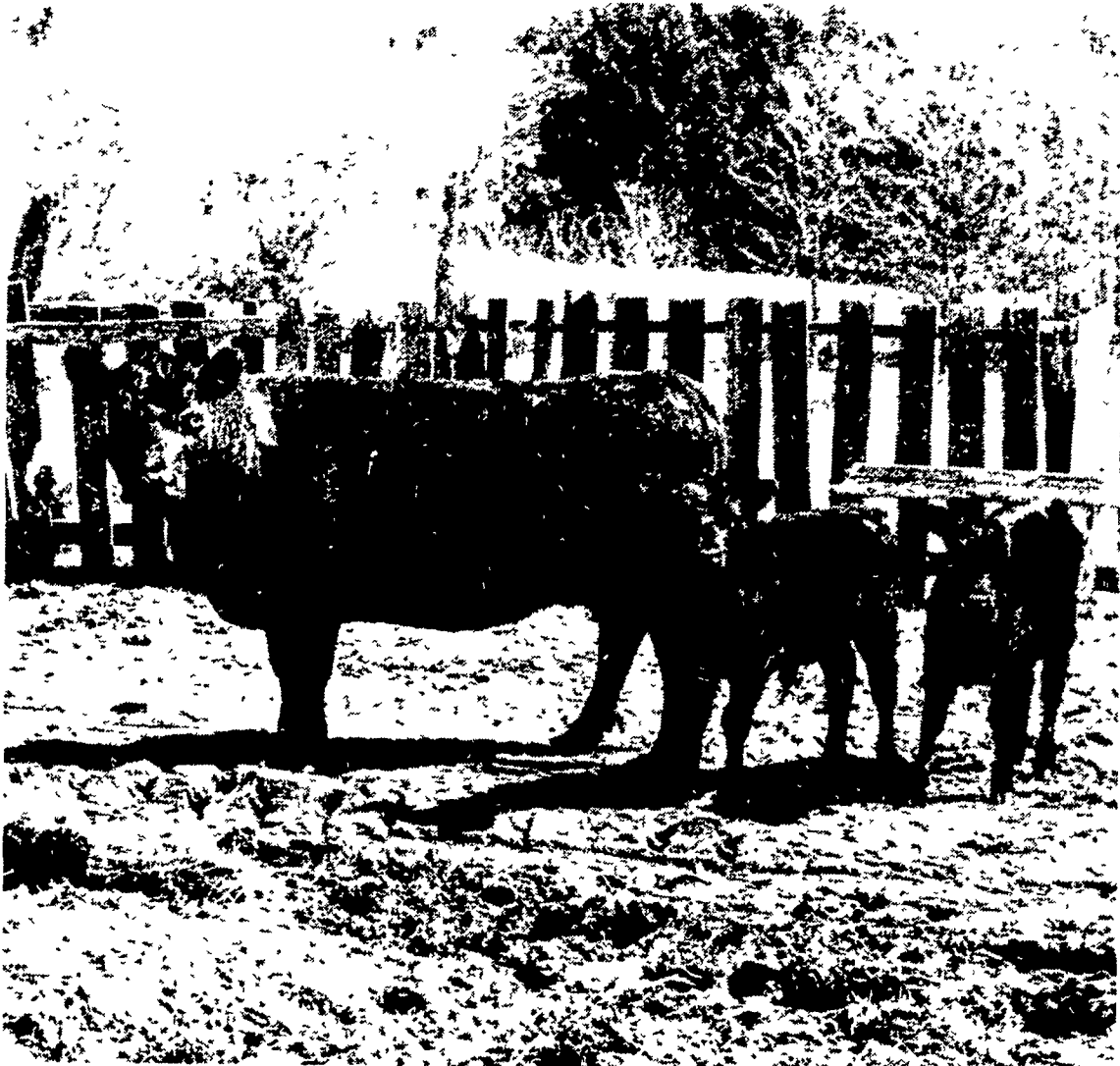
What surprise she might hold in store this time is anyone's guess.

A twin herself, the cow is from one of four that Manifold purchased over twenty years ago from neighbor Lee Poorbaugh. He ventured into Angus beef mostly as a hobby for the farm he'd purchased on Freysville Road, after moving from his former home at Sunnyburn.

Longevity seems to be a trait of these Angus, since one of Manifold's original purchases remained productive in his herd for twenty years.

Manifold suspected that his cow's delivery of two calves was exceedingly rare after viewing a segment of the television show, "That's Incredible." That sequence was based on the story of a woman who gave birth to two babies with timing similar to the Angus cow.

Manifold is retired after 40 years with the American Chain and Cable Company in York. Between raising Angus, and tending his farm chores, he's taken an active role in the Red Lion chapter of the American Association of Retired People, and serves as their president



Now that's incredible! An apparent double pregnancy of Ross Manifold's 16-year-old Angus cow resulted in her dropping a bull calf, center, and then 17 days later, dropping a heifer, right. Although small at birth, the pair is growing well.

## York to hold homemaker's day

**YORK** — The annual spring homemakers day sponsored by Penn State Extension Service and open to the public will be held from 10-2:30 on April 29 at St. Matthews Church.

The program offers something of interest to all ages. Barry Towman from Shiloh Nursey will present a slide show and offer tips for land-

scaping and tower gardening

Vicki Inscho, Freelance Home Economist, noted for microwave cooking classes will present Slick Tricks With a Microwave.

Dr. Walter Johnson, Extension Specialist, will present "First Aid For Furniture." He had the answers on what to do for such things as cigarette burns and those nasty

white water rings on tables

On the lighter side will be musical selections sung by Jeanne Loss

Cost for the day is \$4.50 which includes lunch. For further information and to purchase tickets, contact the Extension Office, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, 757-9657

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