

## Sire Alliance May Allow Beef Producers To Increase Beef Quality

SUNRISE BEACH, Mo. — Increasing the quality of cattle through the use of profitable genetics is one of the main objectives of many cattle producers. Some progressive Angus raisers have realized the potential of identifying these superior genes and have joined together to form the Angus Sire Alliance.

In its second year, the Angus Sire Alliance is the largest progeny test of its kind in the United States. The alliance boasts 35 members, reaching from New York to California, Georgia to Texas. However, only 25 members actually participate in the alliance, with the other ten members serving as alternates.

Ranches and individuals participating in the alliance are as

follows: Generation Angus, Lexington, Ala.; Sauk Valley Angus, Rockfalls, Ill.; International Breeding Center, Spencer, Ind.; Eaglestone Farms, Carlisle, Ky.; Waldeck Farms, Crestwood, Ky.; Whitestone Farm, Aldie, Va.; Champion Hill, Bidwell, Ohio; Shady Brook Farms, Leoma, Tenn.; Aristocrat Angus, Platteville, Colo.; Koch Beef, Wichita, Kan.; A & M Circle T Ranch, Salem, Mo.; High Field Angus, Clinton Corners, N.Y.; Vintage Angus, Modesto, Calif.; McCurry Bros., Sedgewick, Kan.; Brost Angus Farm, Oxford, Ind.; Circle B Angus, Vienna, Mo.; Broken Lance Ranch, Bucyrus, Kan.; Weiker Angus Ranch, Fayette, Mo.;

Twin Valley, Pratteville, Ala.; Davis on the Highlands, Springfield, Ky.; "Doc" Hinds, St. Charles, Mo. and Norb Siegfried, St. Louis, Mo.; Three Trees Ranch, Sharpsburg, Ga.; Springfield Angus, Louisville, N.C.; Twin Oak Farms, Quarryville, Pa.; Tobbins Triple T Ranch, Union, Ky.; Southern Angus, Dothan, Ala.; Diamond W Ranch, Burton, Texas; Leachman Angus, Bozeman, Mont.; Bear Creek Angus, Cameron, Mont.; Circle A Ranch, Iberia, Mo.

Members should submit one purebred, registered Angus bull to the Angus Sire Alliance headquarters, located in Iberia, Mo. Each bull is then turned out with 50 commercial Angus cows. Semen from that same sire is used to artificially inseminate 50 more commercial Angus cows.

"The main objective of the Angus Sire Alliance is to identify the most profitable and predictable Angus genetics in the United States," said Fred Frey of Twin Oak Farms, one of the

alliance's members. "This program will eventually spread throughout the country, making it profitable to all cattle producers by improving the quality of beef and making the animal

more efficient."

In the progeny test, the steer calves are the only ones that will be slaughtered. The heifer calves will be retained for breeding purposes, Frey said.

## Phosphorus Conference Provides Forum

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The phosphorus containing grain and feed crops are then shipped to areas specializing in concentrated livestock production (crop growing for feed is economically and quality wise too much trouble to do locally).

The manures containing the nutrients, especially phosphorus (which doesn't move quickly unless excessive, in poor soils, or on the surface of the soil), are then spread on limited soils.

Thus, the phosphorus that doesn't get shipped away from the farm via the meat animals, gets put on the soils. Many of the farms are small and excessive phosphorus levels can be achieved quickly, even with balancing for nitrogen, all manure and especially some poultry manures contains more phosphorus than needed.

The issue then, according to Lanyon, is to discover a feasible means of completing a cycle of phosphorus flow, and distribution.

(Continued next week).

## Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Day Designated

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Monday, March 30, was designated as "Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Day" in separate resolutions passed unanimously by the state House and Senate. The passage was witnessed by members of the statewide farm organization who were in the state Capitol that day as part of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's annual Harrisburg Legislative Tour.

"We came of age today," remarked PFB President Guy Donaldson at a banquet later that evening during which copies of the resolutions were formally presented. About 300 farmers from throughout the state had visited with their lawmakers earlier to discuss PFB's priority state legislative issues. PFB has been conducting Harrisburg Legislative Tours for decades. It was the first time their efforts had been honored by the General Assembly.

Recognizing Pennsylvania Farm Bureau as a strong voice for agriculture at the local, state and federal level, the resolutions congratulated PFB for its contributions to the Commonwealth and the economic welfare of the agricultural industry in Pennsylvania.

The Senate resolution was introduced by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-36th Dist.), acting chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

In the House, Rep. Ray Bunt (R-147th Dist.), chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee sponsored the resolution honoring Farm Bureau.

Donaldson, PFB Vice President Carl Shaffer and administrative secretary Lou Sallie attended the introduction of the resolutions as special guests and were introduced during the proceedings in both chambers.

Noting that the introduction of the resolution coincided with PFB's annual Harrisburg Tour, Sen. Wenger said legislators have come to look forward to the "free interchange of communications" that takes place every year with Farm Bureau members. Sen. Patrick Stapleton (D-41st Dist.), minority chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, expressed his support for the resolution and told his colleagues that a delegation of Farm Bureau members who had visited his office that day informed him that local tax reform is their number one priority. He urged legislators to heed their message.

In the House, Rep. Art Hershey (R-13th Dist.), a farmer-turned-legislator and former leader in the farm organization, expressed his appreciation of PFB. He remembered how, 25 years earlier, he had participated as a young dairyman in the Harrisburg Legislative Tour and how exciting it had been to see Farm Bureau policies, developed from the grass-roots level, being enacted into law. Other lawmakers also voiced their appreciation of PFB's efforts over the years.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau was established by a group of farmers as the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association in November 1950. PFB is a voluntary, non-government organization which represents 25,247 member families in 54 county units.

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