

*Dear Henbit + Chickweed,
The stuff that gets wild garlic
Gets you, too, they now confirm
That's just as good as catching
Three fish with just one worm!
Outta my wheat, weeds!
- Fred*

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Farm Hosts New Jersey Angus Association Reorganization Meeting

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Carbon Co. Correspondent
PEAPACK, N.J. Picturesque River Bend Farm, located here with its wood shingle barns and black cattle grazing among the fall colors, was the site recently of the reorganization meeting of the New Jersey Angus Association.

Organizers Bob Mickel, Hunterdon County Extension Agent; Howard Hoffman, Cedar Lane Farm; Dr. John Higgins, Acorn Embryo; and Corne Vogelaar, River Bend Farm, have visions of the association becoming revitalized after several years of inactivity.

Through talking with fellow breeders and extension personnel, the organizers believe there is enough interest to give it a try. The organizers contacted those on the last known active membership list and breeders with the American Angus Association from neighboring states, several of which exhibit their animals at the New Jersey State Angus Show conducted each August at the Sussex County Farm Show.

River Bend Farm is home to herd manager Corne Vogelaar; wife Dawn; and children Case, 5;



From left, Dr. John Higgins, Acorn Embryo, and Dr. Anne Pierok, senior veterinarian at New Jersey Department of Ag, Division of Animal Health, discuss health issues during the meeting.

Jay, 4; Melissa, 2; and Joshua, 6 months. The farm consists of 240 owned and rented acres and has a herd that includes 60 cows. The acreage is all hay or pastureland with all registered Angus cattle.

The herd includes four bulls used for cleanup breeding; however, 85 percent of the females are bred AI or used for embryo transfer. The operation also has one full-time employee, Mike

Brown.

Vogelaar, of Dutch ancestry, was born in Holland. His father was a minister. Through his career travels, the family moved from Holland to Canada and eventually to New Jersey.

With a lifelong interest in agriculture, Vogelaar earned a degree in animal science from Cook College, part of Rutgers University.

He has worked on dairy farms, became involved with cooperative extension, and then learned about the herd manager position at River Bend Farm. He has been at River Bend Farm for the past six and a half years.

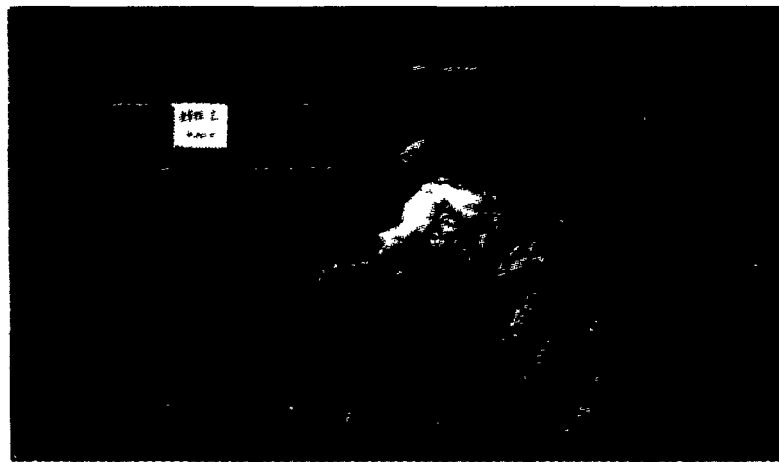
The original herd at River Bend Farm was started 40 years ago by the Turnbull family. The main focus of the farm and operation today is to have all registered animals and try to market purebred animals through the sale of bulls and females as seedstock.

Vogelaar said the association was idle for about the past five years. During the mid to late 1980s, quite a few of the larger Angus breeders of the state that had been the backbone of the group sold off their herds.

The association kept active for a few years after that but eventually interest fell, and the association has been in limbo ever since.

During the meeting portion, Vogelaar welcomed everyone, stressing that the point of the event was to get the association back up and going again.

The organizers indicated they need and welcome all the input they can get, and were conducting this barn tour and gathering in an attempt to reactivate, decide where they wanted to go with the association, what needed to be done to reorganize, and what general direction the group



Case Vogelaar, 5, son of Corne and Dawn Vogelaar, disinfects his boots as a biosecurity measure during the pasture walk at River Bend Farm.

wanted to take.

The group discussed several upcoming events where the association could participate or have a display to get the word out that the association has reformed and is looking for more members. The group believes there are many breeders out there that may not be aware of the association.

Present were visitors and interested breeders from New Jersey and Pennsylvania and all expressed an interest in keeping the association active. The group wanted to concentrate on supporting the youth and junior members. Assisting them is Jamie Hower, Bethlehem, Pa. Angus Queen and an American Angus Association junior board director.

John Tighe volunteered to be the delegate representing the New Jersey Angus Association at the New Jersey State Ag Convention in Atlantic City in January 2003 with Corne Vogelaar serving as the alternate delegate.

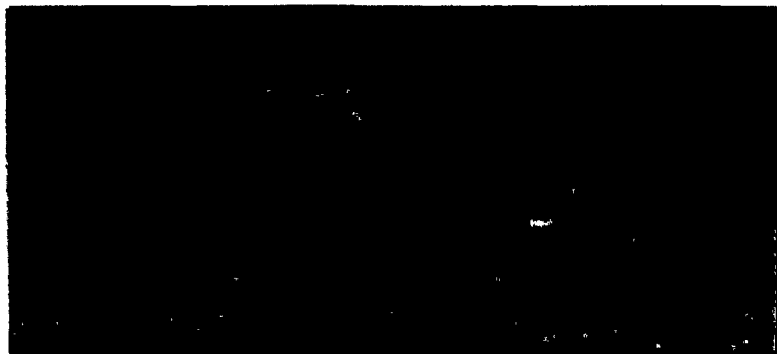
Guest speaker Dr. Anne Pie-

rok, senior veterinarian at the New Jersey Department of Ag, Division of Animal Health, spoke to the group. Pierok noted that it is important for breeders to come together strong not only to have strength as a group but to have a voice. Involvement in a group such as the New Jersey Angus Association is an excellent way to become better informed regarding animal health issues, she noted.

Pierok spoke about NJCHAP — the New Jersey Cattle Health Assurance Program, tailored after the program in New York State to test for and prevent Johne's disease. The state offers free herd testing and development of herd plans.

Pierok is editor of Cattle Health News, a publication of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health. To be added to the mailing list for Cattle Health News or to receive a copy of the Johne's

(Turn to Page A24)



Jamie Hower, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Angus Queen and an American Angus Association junior board director, checks pedigrees of young heifers at River Bend Farm.