

# Virginia Dates To Remember

**BLACKSBURG, Va.** — Here are a few dates for producers in the livestock industry to mark on their calendar.

## Beef

- Jan. 25 — Beef Cattle Health Conference, Blacksburg. Contact: Anne Clapsaddle, (540)231-5261
- Feb. 27 — Beef Quality Assurance Producer Certification, South Hill. Contact: Cynthia Gregg, (434) 848-2151
- Feb. 28 — Beef Cattle Health Conference, Orange. Contact: Steve Hopkins, (540) 672-1361
- March 4 — Beef Quality Assurance Producer Certification, Roanoke. Contact: Andy Allen, (540) 473-8260

- March 9 — SW Bull Test Station Open House, Wytheville, 1:30-5 p.m. Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159
- March 15 — Beef Quality Assurance Producer Certification, Powhatan. Contact: Robert Harper, (804) 556-5341
- March 22 Beef Quality Assurance Producer Certification, Lynchburg. Contact: Scott Baker, (540) 586-7675
- March 22 — Va. BCIA Wytheville Bull Sale, SW Bull Test Station, Wytheville. Contact: Scott Greiner, (540)231-9159
- April 4 — Va. BCIA Culpeper Junior Bull Sale, Culpeper. Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159

- April 18-19 — Va. Beef Expo, Harrisonburg. Contact: John Hall, (540) 231-9153
- Sheep**
- Jan. 10-11 VA-NC Shepherd's Symposium, Sheraton Four Points, Harrisonburg. Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159
- Jan. 11 — Virginia-Bred Commercial Ewe Lamb Sale, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg. Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159
- Swine**
- Jan. 22 — Va. Pork Industry Conference, Franklin. Contact: Allen Harper, (757) 657-6450, Ext, 106

## January Beef Management Calendar

**BLACKSBURG, Va.** — Here is a calendar to help keep producers on track for the upcoming calving seasons.

### Spring Calving Herds

- Begin to gather calving supplies
- Keep late pregnant cows gaining on pound per day
- Pregnant heifers and 3-year-olds should gain 2-2.5 pounds per day
- Keep high quality minerals available
- Review calving assistance procedures

- Stockpile a few gallons of colostrum
- Attend performance tested bull sales and/or order semen for AI
- Soil test pastures not tested in last three years
- Order clover seed for frost seeding later this winter
- Sign up for BQA producer certification
- Fall Calving Herds**
- Begin/continue breeding
- Check cow and bull condition

- Supplement energy to young bulls during breeding season
- Send in forage test if not done earlier this year
- +p Continue to check calves closely for health problems
- Re-implant September and early October born calves that were implanted at birth
- Soil test pastures not tested in last three years
- +p Order clover seed for frost seeding later this winter
- Sign up for BQA producer certification

## AHA Begins DNA Profiling

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — As of Nov. 1, the American Hereford Association (AHA) is now DNA profiling instead of blood typing Herefords for parentage verification.

Blood typing has served AHA well. However, DNA analysis is a powerful tool for enhanced genetic selection. And DNA parentage testing is a tried and true genetic test.

"It's a technology that's been around a long time," explains Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president. "It's now getting to the point where the price of the technology has come in line with what we've traditionally done with blood typing, and were able to make that move now."

AHA has selected Maxxam Analytics, Inc., Guelph, Ont., Canada, to be the associations exclusive provider of DNA profiles and parentage verification. Maxxam Analytics will profile pulled hair samples from Hereford cattle.

"It's science that has been made available to us," Huffhines summarizes. "It's our position to get to DNA and understand DNA for simple parentage testing, so that in the future we might go even further with it."

## Red Angus Hosts Convention

**RENO, Nev.** — The Red Angus National Association (RAAA) recently conducted a national convention.

More than 200 people from 26 states, Canada, and Brazil traveled to Reno, Nev., Nov. 7-8 to enjoy fellowship with other Red Angus breeders. The 49th National Convention of the RAAA was hosted by the Area I- West Red Angus breeders.

Elections were held and the 2002-2003 board consists of President Harold Hughes, Polson, Mont.; First Vice President Frank Wedel, Leoti, Kan.; Second Vice President Steve Andras, Manchester, Ill.; and directors Larry Lorenzen, Pendleton, Ore.; Seth Leachman, Billings, Mont.; Larry Croissant, Briggsdale, Colo.; Kelli Brown, Throckmorton, Texas; Gary Sonstegard, Montevideo, Minn.; Jim McLean, Stone Mountain, Ga.; Terry Boyles, Denton, N.C.; Ole Redland, Hysham, Mont.; Tony Messmer, Richardton, N.D.; and Miriam Foshee, Letohatchee, Ala.

In addition to association business, the fifth annual "Bet On Red" Sale was conducted during the convention.

The showroom of the Nugget served as the site for the breed's first staged sale. Buffalo Creek Red Angus, Leiter, Wyo., donated the pick of their entire 2002 heifer calf crop which sold to R2 Cattle Company, Texas, for \$16,000.

The 50th National Convention will be in Bozeman, Mont. Sept 11-14, 2003.

## Major Trade Agreement To Give Cattle Producers New Export Market

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) applauds the announcement that U.S. and Chilean officials have come to resolution on a comprehensive free trade agreement between the two countries.

This decision comes after two years of complex negotiations with more than 200 trade negotiators.

"This FTA with Chile will do away with longstanding trade barriers on our exports. It cuts tariffs and opens markets for U.S. beef and beef products," says Wythe Willey, president of NCBA. "For cattle producers, Chile is a prime candidate for increased export market opportunities."

According to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), about three-quarters of both U.S. and Chilean farm goods will be tariff-free within four years, with all tariffs and quotas phased out within 12

years. Both the European Union and Canada already have FTAs with Chile, but with this agreement U.S. farmers' access to Chilean markets will be as good or better. Beef and beef products are scheduled to gain duty-free treatment within four years.

"With this agreement, we will soon have preferential access to one of the world's fastest growing economies, open trade with no tariffs and streamlined customs procedures," says Michelle Reinke, manager of trade policy at NCBA. "Chile is not a large cattle-producing nation, and they import a majority of their beef and beef products."

Zoellick and Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear are expected to sign the agreement and submit it to their Congresses for approval next year. The U.S. - Chile FTA will be the first comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and a South American country.

## New Leadership Elected For American Angus Association

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** — Steve Brooks, Bowman, N.D., was elected president of the American Angus Association at the group's 2002 Annual Meeting of delegates, November 18 in Louisville, Ky.

Brooks replaces outgoing president Leroy Baldwin, Ocala, Fla., after serving six years as director and the past year as vice president.

The annual meeting and election was conducted by more than 300 delegates who were elected to represent American Angus Association members from more than 40 states. The meeting was in conjunction with the North American International Livestock

Exposition (NAILE).

Joe Elliott, Adams, Tenn., was chosen to serve as vice president of the association. Five individuals were elected to the board of directors.

Brooks and his wife, April, and their three daughters are partners in Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch. The Brooks family has managed commercial Angus cattle since 1941 and has been in the registered Angus business for 25 years.

Joe Elliott, the association's newly elected vice president, just completed his second three-year term on the board and a one-year term as treasurer. His operation is Robert Elliott and Sons Farm.



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