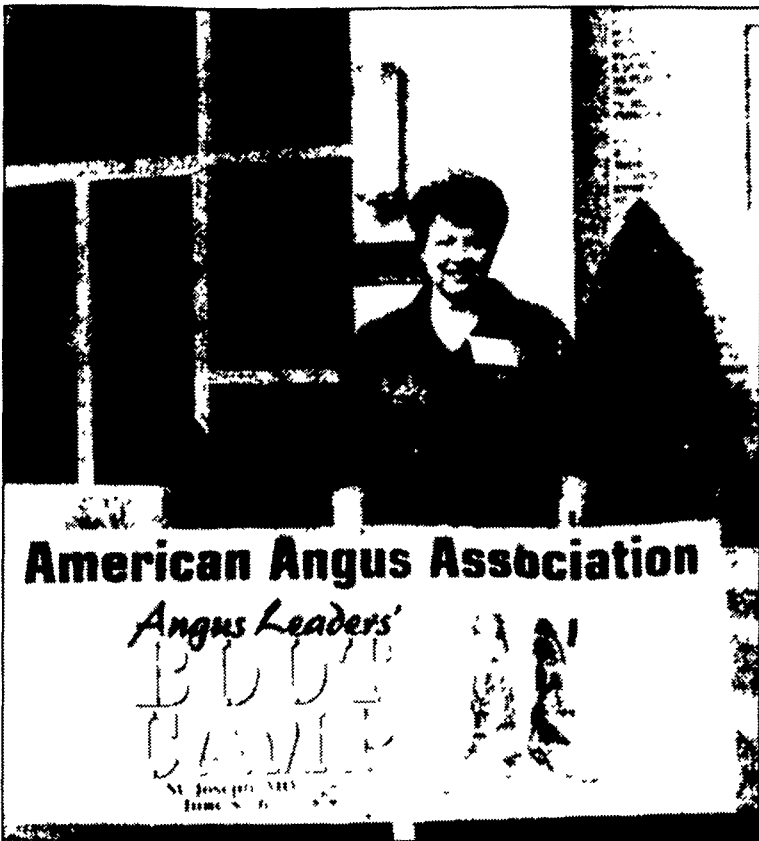


Angus Representatives Learn The Ropes At Angus Leaders' Boot Camp



Barbara Weaver, New Holland, represented the Pennsylvania Angus Association at Angus Leaders' Boot Camp, June 5-6 in St. Joseph, Mo.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Angus representatives from across the country participated in the Angus Leaders' Boot Camp, June 5-6, in St. Joseph, Mo.

"Boot Camp" was designed to help educate leaders in local, state and regional Angus associations about the variety of services offered by the American Angus Association and its entities. Representatives from more than 20 states attended the seminar hosted by the American Angus Association.

Participants arrived on June 5 and spent the afternoon networking and touring the headquarters of both the American Angus Association and the Angus Productions Inc.

That evening, a cookout was hosted at the association. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to socialize and discuss ideas.

The following day, informational talks were held at the Stoney Creek Inn Conference Center. Industry topics, as well as association departmental updates were covered.

Lee Dickerson, director of range beef cow production for Purina Mills, started the morning off with an informational talk on industry training. He discussed the need for producers to optimize resources and realize they are the "foundation of the cattle industry."

A panel discussion followed with members of different associations discussing their programs and leadership styles. Members of the panel included Vernon Frey, Granville, N.D.; Jennifer Svoboda, Sargent, Neb.; Randy McCabe, Elk City, Kan.; Mike McGuire, Waverly, Ala.; and Barbara Weaver, New Holland. The panel agreed that many associations' primary functions include promotion, communication, marketing and social opportunities.

Next, the association departments made presentations on what services they offered and any recent developments. Each department's director gave an overview of programs offered and ways the association can work with local, state and regional as-

sociations to create more educational and promotional prospects.

Following a lunch break, John Stika gave an overview of Certified Angus Beef (CAB) LLC. He discussed feedlot licensing programs and opportunities to partner with associations at various events.

Angus Productions Inc. made a presentation on the services they offer. Included in the presentation was a discussion of the Web marketing services they offer associations as well as association members.

Later, motivational speaker Andrew McCrea challenged the delegates to lead their groups by looking at situations from the perspective of those being led. McCrea, who hosts a daily radio feature "American Countryside," said leaders need to put themselves in other people's shoes for a better perspective on how to lead. Lastly, he reminded the group that "little things make a difference."

John Crouch gave the closing remarks.

Fuels From Farm Could Curb Rising Energy Prices

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Natural gas prices have more than doubled over the last year and are expected to mushroom in 2004. National Farmers Union president recently said that agriculture producers, who depend heavily on natural gas, also offer an answer to lowering energy prices.

"Farmers and ranchers use natural gas for fertilizer and heating, venting and refrigeration of crops and livestock," said NFU President Dave Frederickson. "On the flip side, they harvest plants, animals, and wind that can be used for bioenergy."

"America needs a comprehensive energy plan that will address

energy shortages and utilize renewable resources," he said. "The Senate is right on target with its renewable fuels standard (RFS)."

Upon passage of the energy bill in the Senate, the two houses will work out their differences in conference committee. Frederickson said he hopes the process will proceed quickly.

Farm Loans Available For Certain Social Groups

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged farmer is one of a group whose members has been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA and include both farm operating and farm ownership loans.

Guaranteed loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to federal or state supervision (banks, saving and loans, insurance companies and units of the Farm Credit system). Typically, FSA guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who think they might be eligible can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office, listed in the blue pages of the phone directory.

June 2003

Dear Producer,

We are happy to announce that Leland Miller has joined the Dedicated Team at Homestead Nutrition Inc. Many of you may know Leland from his crop consulting business Advanced Agronomics. On June 1 Homestead Nutrition Inc. and Advanced Agronomics became one company. This was because of a shared vision of providing dairy producers with a program that brings the best in soil balancing, hybrid variety selection, agronomic consulting, forage management practices and dairy nutrition.

Our vision is to provide you with a team that can support you in your efforts to produce and feed the highest quality forages and grains possible. We believe that the most profitable way to produce milk is to provide your cows with feeds that are high yielding and highly digestible, that are free of disease and molds and mycotoxins. Our desire is to be able to offer the most advanced, innovative and practical solutions to achieving this goal.

Homestead Nutrition Inc. wants to continue to be the leader in bringing the best and latest in products, services and information that allows you to be profitable in changing and challenging times.

As we enter into this new phase of our company, we are excited about the opportunities that this brings to us, and to you. We are able to design a custom program for your farm that delivers:

- Soil Balancing
- Agronomic Consulting
- Hybrid Selection
- Crop Scouting Services
- Nutrient Management
- Forage Management Practices
- Dairy Nutrition Products and Programs

We welcome the opportunity to share this whole farm concept with you.

And as always, Homestead Nutrition Inc. wants to be...

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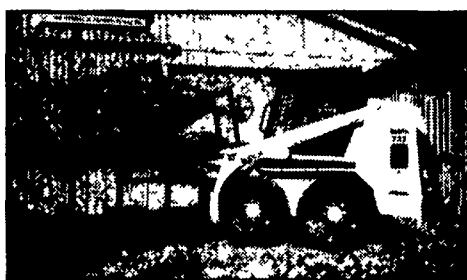
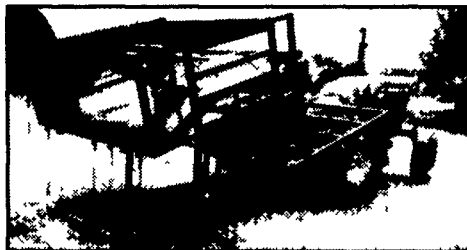
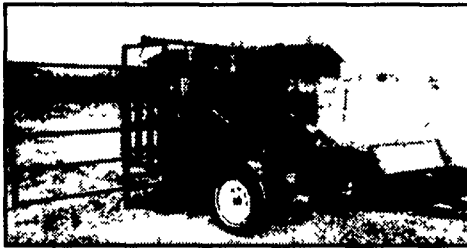
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