

National Angus Conference And Tour Set For September 24-27 In Mandan, N.D.

MANDAN, N.D. — Plans are underway for the 2003 National Angus Conference and Tour, scheduled September 24-27 in Mandan, N.D.

The American Angus Association has planned a program full of top-notch beef industry speakers lined up for the one-day conference program.

The North Dakota Angus Association (NDAA) is putting the finishing touches on the more than two-day tour, which will feature Angus herds from across the state.

The theme for this year's event is "Take Initiative," and the conference speakers will challenge both seedstock and commercial producers to "take initiative" when selecting genetics, managing resources and exploring marketing options.

"We are excited to sponsor the National Angus Conference and Tour," says Wayne Cole, Senior Manager-Cattle Marketing, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica. "Given the rapid changes in technologies, products and marketing strategies in the beef industry, this is an important event for any beef producer wishing to learn about increasing their profitability."

Speakers on the program include Daryl Strohbehn, Iowa State University; Barry Dunn, South Dakota State University; Ron Lemanager, Purdue University; Kevin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C.; Gene Harris, Killdeer, N.D.; and Vance Uden, Franklin, Neb. Presentations will also be given on herd health and beef quality assurance.

Following the conference, members of the NDAA will showcase some of the best Angus genetics their state has to offer. Attendees will have the opportunity to see some of the best herds in the state as well as see diverse environments and scenic areas.

Members who will host tour stops include Tokach Angus Ranch, Ellingson Angus Ranch, Schaff's Angus Valley, Frey Angus Ranch, McCumber Angus Ranch, Vollmer Angus Ranch, Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch and Fairview Angus Ranch. Other breeders will also be featured at centralized stops.

Registration materials for the event will be available soon. Request them by contacting Linda Campbell at (816) 383-5100 or lcampbell@angus.or

New Pest Bugs Soybean Growers

WOOSTER, Ohio — Along with the stresses of the weather, soybean growers might be faced with yet another problem: soybean aphids. The pest was recently identified in a Wooster field and entomologists are encouraging growers to scout their fields.

Soybean aphids are relatively new to the United States and to Ohio State University researchers. The pests were first identified in 2000 and were a major problem in northern Ohio and surrounding states in 2001, said Ron Hammond, an entomologist with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Last year researchers were prepared to battle the bug, but it was almost non-existent.

"Two years ago, we didn't really realize we had the pest until too late," Hammond said. "And last year, it didn't really show up—it was low throughout the Midwest. We don't really know what it will do this year, but we hope it's like last year."

Based on the soybean aphid damage seen in 2001, Minnesota was expecting to spray over two million acres last year. Ohio was prepared to spray one-half million acres, and that was based on damage seen only in the northern part of Ohio, Hammond said. If the aphids get into bigger soybean regions, it could be a major problem.

A population of soybean aphids can easily reduce yields by five to 10 bushels per acre, Hammond said. Injury from soybean aphids include pod abortion, and later in the season, small seed development.

If the soybean aphid becomes a problem, farmers would be facing \$10 to \$15 per acre of additional costs for spray, Hammond said. However, because it only takes three to four bushels to cover spray cost, the cost of spray is well justified compared to the losses caused by soybean aphids.

"I hope it's a problem we don't have to get into," Hammond said. "Growers have enough to handle with the weather and prices. They don't need to have another problem."

The pests, which cover the plant and suck the juices out of it, can get into the thousands per plant, Hammond said. Growers want to keep numbers minimal, but do not want to spray too soon or it will allow for the aphids to return by the end of the season. It is recommended to wait to spray until early- to mid-July when the plants are flowering and setting pods, and the majority of plants are covered with 250 or more aphids.

Soybean aphids, which are often mistaken for small potato leafhopper nymphs, overwinter on buck-thorn. This host is usually found along hedges, fence lines, and wooded areas. But the Wooster field where the aphids were identified is not close to hedges, fence lines or woods, Hammond said.

The aphid also is thought to be a cool-season pest because of its invasion of northern United States, but researchers are not yet sure. If the aphids are a problem this year, more traits will be figured out.

Wet Weather May Rot Soybean Yields

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Wet soil conditions have been the root of a lot of problems this planting season and soybean growers continue to struggle with added stress from hot weather.

Ohio soybean fields are beginning to dry, but 18 percent remain saturated, and resulting root-rot diseases are increasing estimated yield losses.

"In June, we had fairly wet soil conditions throughout most of the month," said Jim Beuerlein, an Ohio State University agronomist. "There was plenty of opportunity for soybean plants to get infected with all the root rot diseases, and that probably happened in most fields."

"Now that we're in July, things have dried out and tem-


peratures are up and beans are growing," he said. "And since they have been infected, we expect to see these diseases, with warmer soil temperatures, starting to develop and destroy root systems."

To this point, growers have planted 97 percent of Ohio's soybean crop, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. This is compared to 100 percent last year.

Late planting, combined with root rot diseases, will produce smaller plants with fewer nodes. Plants that usually average 3 feet of growth may only be 1.5 feet to 2.5 feet tall, said Beuerlein, who also is a professor in horticulture and crop science. Growers can expect lower yields from smaller plants and fewer pods.

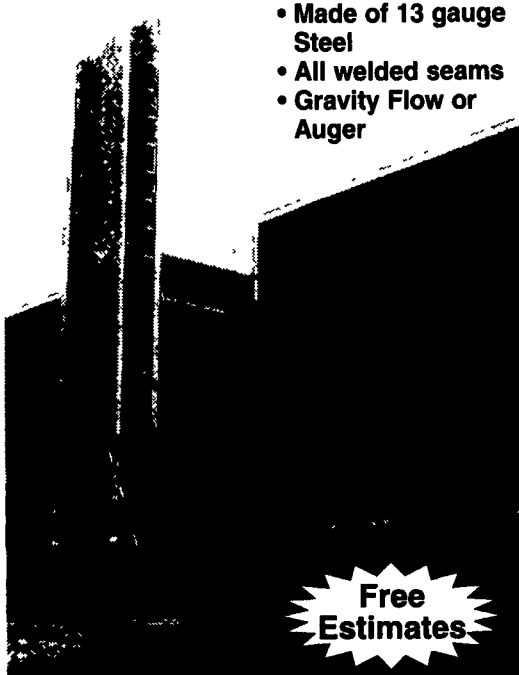
Depending on the rest of the season, it is estimated that yields will be below 40 bushels per acre, compared to the normal 43 bushels to 44 bushels per acre. Any additional stress on the plants, such as recent high temperatures, will increase disease and yield losses.

Lancaster Farming's Boarder & Trainer has another fantastic section scheduled Aug. 9. The summer B&T is scheduled to include a feature on Percheron horses, an interview with two "horse dentists," pictorial coverage of a major horse show, and how one horse owner turned her experiences into an inspirational book. Also included: housing and fencing requirements for horses and a special column on draft horses, along with many other goodies. Watch for it!



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NILE To Host 2003-04 National Red Angus Show, Junior Show

BOZEMAN, MT — The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) has named the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) as the location for their 2003-04 National Show and National Junior Show.

The National Red Angus Junior Show will be on October 15. Judges for the National Junior Show will be announced at a later date. The National Red Angus Show will be conducted October 26.

Randy Daniel, Colbert, Georgia will serve as the lead judge, and Troy Thomas, Harold, South Dakota, as the associate judge for

the 2003-04 National Show. The RAAA uses a two-judge system, providing the lead judge with a Red Angus breeder as an associate to help familiarize him with the EPDs and the focus of the breed.

The 21st annual NILE Red Angus Auction will be conducted Friday, October 17.


The entry deadline is September 15. Premium lists, entry applications and information can be obtained by calling the NILE at (406) 256-2495, or the RAAA National Office at (940) 387-3502.

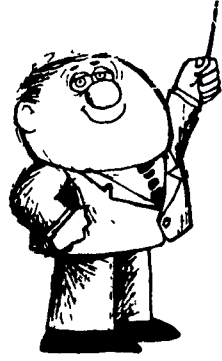


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