

From the Heart of the Vintage Herd

The 2018 Angus Foundation Female is truly one of a kind, coming from a mating that's in the very top echelons of the Angus breed.

by Sarah Hill, special projects editor

When you use the term “elite,” you’re talking the best of the best. The cream of the crop. The top 1%.

The Angus female featured in the 2018 Angus Foundation Heifer Package can truly be classified as elite and part of the top 1% of the Angus breed. She not only hails from one of the top Angus herds in the United States, but her pedigree demonstrates how special she really is.

About the Foundation female

“When the opportunity came about for Vintage Angus to donate the heifer for the Angus Foundation heifer package, Jim [Coleman, owner, Vintage Angus] was all for it,” Doug Worthington, Vintage Angus general manager, says. “He wanted to donate a female that was special.”

Vintage Blackbird 7184 (registration number 18745204) has a powerful pedigree behind her. She’s sired by VAR Discovery 2240, the \$110,000 top-selling bull of the 2013 Vintage Angus Ranch bull sale. VAR Discovery 2240 is the only proven bull in the breed today to rank in the top 5% or better



for all six dollar value indexes (\$Values): weaned calf value (\$W), feedlot value (\$F), grid value (\$), quality grade value (\$QG), yield grade value (\$YG) and beef value (\$B).

VAR Discovery 2240 posts expected progeny difference (EPD) accuracies of 0.96 for birth weight (BW), 0.95 for weaning weight (WW), and 0.91 for yearling weight (YW). For proven bulls with a 0.90 accuracy or higher, VAR Discovery ranks No. 1 for YW, No. 2 for \$W, No. 1 for \$F, No. 4 for \$G, No. 11 for \$QG, and No. 4 for \$B, proving his multi-trait excellence.

Her dam, Sandpoint Blackbird 8809, known at Vintage Angus as the “dam of herd sires,” has generated more progeny sales at Vintage Angus than any other female, more than \$3.5 million, with eight sons currently in artificial insemination (AI) studs. Her maternal brothers include VAR Generation 2100, VAR Index 3282, VAR Foreman 3339, Vintage Commander 4152, VAR Rubicon 5414, VAR Ranger 3008 and VAR Reserve 1111.

Worthington adds that buying Blackbird 7184 would be a tremendous opportunity to buy a high-quality Angus female while supporting the Angus Foundation.

“Most Angus folks know this heifer’s pedigree without having to look it up,” he adds. “She’s right out of the heart of the Vintage Angus herd. She fits the bill of multi-trait excellence.”

Breeding for excellence

Coleman’s interest in cattle started as a boy during visits to his uncle’s Oregon dairy. Coleman learned a set of values that guide him to this day, and that raising livestock is a noble and special profession.

After many years, Coleman had an opportunity to acquire his own cattle and rediscover that ranching was in his blood.

Two of Coleman’s sons worked on a commercial Angus ranch one summer where his family’s company conducted feed experiments. The boys implored Coleman to get their own Angus cattle. Coleman told them if they built the fence, he would buy the Angus cows.

In 1976, Coleman bought four Angus females from Ankony Angus in Loyalton, Calif., the start of Vintage Angus.



► “It is an honor for Vintage Angus Ranch to donate the 2018 Angus Foundation heifer,” says Jim Coleman. “We are selecting a very elite female to represent the very best of Vintage Angus Ranch that truly delivers upon our goal of producing ultimate Angus genetics.”

Through the years, Coleman learned the importance of cow families and important aspects of breeding Angus cattle. His sons participated in national junior Angus activities.

As the 1980s evolved, the Vintage herd grew and improved in quality, starting an annual female production sale in 1987. Coleman decided it was time to take the herd to the next level and sought a nationally known manager.

Doug Worthington was hired in 1989 to fill that role. In 1985, the American Angus Association had honored Worthington with the National Herdsman Award. With Coleman’s business acumen and Worthington’s Angus knowledge, Vintage Angus has produced unparalleled results.

Vintage Angus Ranch has hosted 31 annual female production sales and 24 annual bull sales. These sales have become a highlight in the fall sales season each year, with breeders from all over the United States attending.

Worthington says, “These sales are a great time to make new partnerships, revisit old friends, and enjoy Angus cattle with other Angus enthusiasts.”

Over the years, Coleman’s goal has been to



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►Vintage Blackbird 7184



of leaders in our industry, benefits us all as Angus breeders.”

“It is an honor for Vintage Angus Ranch to donate the 2018 Angus Foundation heifer,” says Jim. “We are selecting a very elite female to represent the very best of Vintage Angus Ranch that truly delivers upon our goal of producing ultimate Angus genetics. Again, we are humbled by this prestigious invitation from the Angus Foundation, and consider it a privilege to give back to the Angus breed.”



Editor’s Note: For more information on giving to the Angus Foundation, visit www.angusfoundation.org.

produce ultimate Angus genetics. Through persistence, Vintage Angus has worked toward this goal, despite changes in the breed.

“We breed for multi-trait excellence,” Worthington says. “We don’t concentrate on just one trait. We try to raise cattle that will be excellent across the board, concentrating on the most desirable traits.”

“We have 375 cows calving in the spring, and 150 calving in the fall,” Worthington says.

Today, the cattle are managed on two different ranches, the foothill ranch in La Grange, Calif., where the cow herd stays from November to May and the irrigated ranch in Waterford, Calif., where the spring-calving herd stays from May until November.

Longtime Angus Foundation supporters

“Jim supports the Angus Foundation because he appreciates Angus people, young people and the Angus breed,” Worthington says. “It’s a good opportunity to support the future of the breed.”

In 2006, Vintage Angus hosted more than 250 Angus enthusiasts at the Magic of the Vine event, which grossed nearly \$200,000 for the Angus Foundation.

Worthington adds, “It’s exciting for Vintage Angus to once again support the Angus Foundation in its goals involving education, youth and research. Supporting the youth of our breed and the research needed to develop the new tools they will need in the future, as the next generation

	A A R Ten X 7008 S A	Mytty In Focus
V A R Discovery 2240		A A R Lady Kelton 5551
Deer Valley Rita 0308		Sitz Upward 307R
Vintage Blackbird 7184	Reg: 18475204	G A R Objective 2345
Birth: 02/08/2017		Connealy Lead On
Connealy Onward		Altune of Conanga 6104
Sandpoint Blackbird 8809		G A R Grid Maker
Riverbend Blackbird 4301		Riverbend Blackbird 2204

Production									Maternal						
CED	BW	WW	YW	RADG	DMI	YH	SC	DOC	HP	CEM	Milk	MkH	MW	MH	SEN
+9	+3.2	+80	+152	+0.38	+0.44	+0.8	+1.80	+27	+10.6	+9	+35	N/A	+62	+6	-37.26
.38	.51	.46	.42	.28	.28	.43	.45	.39	.26	.34	.34	N/A	.34	.38	

Carcass				\$Values					
CW	Marb	RE	Fat	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$QG	\$YG	\$B
+63	+0.72	+1.07	-0.051	+79.69	+138.13	+49.32	+37.21	+12.11	+192.04
.41	.38	.38	.35						

As of Oct. 11, 2017.