

Follow Us to Kansas

Kansas Angus Association to host preconvention tour Nov. 2.
Register today at www.angusconvention.com.

Story & photos by **Carrie Heitman**, Creative Media

Last fall, the inaugural Angus Means Business National Convention & Trade Show proved itself to be one of the industry's must-attend events for its membership, education and trade show venues. This year, participants will have the added opportunity to see some great cattle.

The Kansas Angus Association will host a tour Monday, Nov. 2, prior to the official start of the convention, which is slated for Nov. 3-5 in Overland Park, Kan. The Kansas Angus Tour will allow attendees to spend a day visiting area Angus farms and ranches.

"The state of Kansas is home to several prominent Angus operations, and we are looking forward to showcasing their programs as part of the preconvention tour," says Jeff Mafi, American Angus Association regional manager for Kansas and Oklahoma.

The tour will make three tour stops: Mill Brae Ranch, Maple Hill, Kan.; May-Way Farms Inc., Baldwin City, Kan.; and Chair Rock, Greeley, Kan.

A bus will depart before the Chair Rock visit for tour participants wishing to attend the Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event (see "Association Highlights," page 18) that evening in Overland Park.

An additional \$75 registration fee applies for the Kansas tour, and attendees can reserve a spot when registering for the National Angus Convention & Trade Show at www.angusconvention.com.



Mill Brae Ranch, Maple Hill, Kan.

Mill Brae Ranch sits on the northern edge of the Flint Hills, which stretch from Kansas to Oklahoma. The largest area of tallgrass prairie in North America, the rolling Flint Hills still remain intact due to the bedrock near the surface.

"We burn the prairie every year from early April on to May, and that's unique to this ecosystem because the grass thrives on the fire-management practice," says Mark Nikkel, Mill Brae Ranch managing partner.

Nikkel says he is excited for people from across the United States to visit the Flint Hills and see what Mill Brae Ranch offers.



May-Way Farms Inc., Baldwin City, Kan.

Just a few short miles down the road from Mill Brae, the tour setting will change from rolling hills to an urban landscape at May-Way Farms Inc. Owner Jason Flory and his family manage cattle from a 10-acre fescue pasture to 1,000 wide-open acres in the Flint Hills.

“A lot of the breeders on display at the May-Way stop will be more of the fescue, cool-season-grass cattle managers,” Flory says. “Participants will see a large contrast of management with a short amount of miles on the tour.”

Flory and his family have been involved in the Angus business for 15 years, getting their start in showing cattle.

“I think any time fellow cattlemen can network and learn, it’s a great opportunity,” Flory says.



Chair Rock, Greeley, Kan.

Exclusively an artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) program in cooperation with Gardiner Angus Ranch of Ashland, Kan., Chair Rock has a unique facility that caters to the growing operation. With handling facilities designed with guidance from renowned animal behaviorist and Colorado State University Professor Temple Grandin, Chair Rock is able to move animals through their facility quietly and efficiently with minimal stress.

Not only is Chair Rock growing with superior genetics, but also with their family. Three families are involved in the third-generation ranch, including the founder, Bill; son Carr; and grandson Chandler.



Editor’s Note: Carrie Heitman is manager of Creative Media for Angus Media.