

Lead In

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Each year it becomes more obvious that the Angus business in the United States depends increasingly upon international markets and the goodwill of cattle producers, and even

consumers, in various parts of the globe.

A group of U.S. Angus producers returned in November from a tour of Argentina, held in conjunction with the World Angus Forum at Mar del Plata. This group traversed Argentina from the Andes to the Atlantic Coast. At every herd they visited, nearly all the cattle they were shown were sired by U.S. bulls, or sons of U.S. bulls. The influence of U.S. Angus in Argentina is impressive.

At the regular meeting of the World Aberdeen Angus Secretariat, which preceded the World Forum meeting, Gary Dameron and I, who were the official delegates from the U.S., sat down with Angus leaders from 13 other countries. We discussed the Angus business and problems that we all have in common.

A group, consisting of the U.S., the United Kingdom and Australia, was formed to study the possibility of an international exchange of performance information. The day may come when people from all over the world will compare the EPDs of Angus cattle and make matings regardless of the bulls' country of origin.

The Aberdeen Angus Secretariat members, particularly those from foot and mouth disease countries, want to work together to find ways to safely export both semen and embryos. The U.S. has a stake in this kind of research because our international trade is curbed when Blue Tongue is involved.

You might also be interested in knowing that nearly every Angus group in the world is concerned about size, or more accurately, excess size in Angus cattle. They particularly worry about its effect upon cow fertility.

In many respects these countries look to the American Angus Association for answers. This is because we have the most performance records and the longest running sire evaluation program. Also, because there is no Angus producing country that does not use U.S. genetics to some extent. Even the United Kingdom, which for many years successfully kept out U.S. cattle imports, can now import U.S. Angus semen under the right conditions. They have been getting U.S. genetics for a number of years, through imports from Canada.

We, in the United States, will get the opportunity to show off our Angus industry to the Angus World in 1993, when the American Angus Association will host the 7th World Angus Forum. We will no doubt tie it in with a National Angus Conference, setting up one or more tours to give foreign Angus enthusiasts a closeup look at both the Angus and the U.S. beef business.

The year 1993 might seem like a long way off, but it is now little more than three and one-half years before the keynote speech will be delivered.

Most members of the American Angus Association have never sold live cattle, embryos or semen outside the country. But as beef exports increase, in the form of Certified Angus Beef or other high quality beef, to Japan and other parts of the world, our stake in foreign marketing will grow.

In 1993, at the 7th World Angus Forum, you will have an opportunity to meet with Angus producers who use U.S. Angus genetics, maybe your genetics, in their breeding programs. These also are the same people who will be increasingly competing with us for quality beef sales around the world.

Mark your calendar and plan now to be a part of the 7th World Angus Forum in 1993.

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