



Jim Orton

Bible Thought: Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.

Psalms 35:1

EDITORIAL

Many Groups Already Complaining About Higher Beef Prices

The purebred market outlook for the next few years is bright. Sales continue to set new records. Demand is especially strong for serviceable age Angus bulls and commercial Angus females. Many purebred breeders are selling the bottom end of their females to take advantage of the high commercial market, and at the same time, upgrading their herds. The bright market has been a long time coming and all of us will have to fight to keep it strong.

Already, consumer groups, editorial writers, liberal politicians, labor unions and other uninformed individuals are after the "cattle barons" who have cut production so they can profit. We were surprised and disappointed to read an editorial in the December 24, 1978 *Des Moines Sunday Register*, the paper claiming the largest circulation in Iowa, urging President Carter to raise the quota on beef imports this year. The editorial writer said it would be irresponsible for the president to set the 1979 quota below the 1.5 billion pound level. He suggested it should be somewhere between the 1.5 billion and 1.65 billion pound level.

The article added that the psychological impact of beef import decisions probably has been exaggerated. It quoted Dr. Gene Futrell, professor of economics, Iowa State University, as believing that most cattlemen will rebuild when the economics of the cattle situation suggest that the profit potential is there, and that the level of beef imports won't have 'all that much' of an impact on their thinking.

Since red meat production and meat packing are by far the largest industries in Iowa, we are surprised at the thinking of the editorial writer and the professor of economics. All of the cattle producers we have talked with are angry with President Carter on his lifting of quotas last year and his failure to sign the Counter-Cyclical Meat Import Bill of 1978. After losing money for several years in a row, they can see no advantage to rebuilding their herds when there is little hope for profit.

A new coalition of consumer activist groups has been formed. It's a sure bet the livestock and meat industry will be hearing from it in the next few years. The coalition, Consumers Opposed to Inflation in the Necessities (COIN), will encourage government, business and the public to focus on inflation in food, housing, energy and health care. COIN's platform is summed up in the title of a flyer currently being distributed: "Inflation Isn't a Natural Disaster; It's Caused by People Who Profit from It."

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Since his purchase, we have progressed into the Angus business at a rapid pace. We have entered bulls in test stations in four states, exhibited cattle at shows in eight states, and sold cattle in many breed association and consignment sales. We have also held five production sales, four of which we have managed at the ranch ourselves. We have used three sons of "247" in the herd, retained many of his daughters, and now, we are featuring two of his grandsons, both seven frame bulls. We have added other bulls through both natural service and artificial service to build on the progress that "247" started.

On October 15, 1978, Pattons Marshall 247 died as the result of injuries incurred during a bull fight. Since his purchase on that late November afternoon in 1970, we have learned much about breeding and selling registered Angus cattle. As any cattleman knows, there are defeats and successes in making a program work. We have continually tried to breed our cattle up, seeking to produce that top individual, and crossing back on that genetic base with another top individual. The challenge of contributing something of significance to the Angus breed is one that we have always adhered to. As C. K. Allen, secretary, American Angus Association has stated, "there is nothing greater than the pride of achieving a goal you have set through genetic accomplishment." We feel that Pattons Marshall 247 moved us a little closer toward that goal.



ANGUS CHAMPIONS AT 1978 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL

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Junior Bull Calf Champion, Griebes Black Revolution 1948. Reserve Senior Heifer Calf Champion was Mon Reposa Marie 972 shown by Shandar Angus and Mon Reposa, Payson, Utah. Shandar, in partnership with Nebo Angus Ranch, also showed the Intermediate Champion Heifer, Nebo Black Queen 32.

Nonpareil Angus Ranch, Blackfoot, Idaho, exhibited the Reserve Intermediate Champion Heifer, Nonpareil Heiress 1277; Reserve Intermediate Champion Bull, Nonpareil Climax; and Senior Champion Bull, Nonpareil Celebrity.

Reserve Senior Bull Calf Champion was Black Alto 67 of DC shown by Donald Callison, Blackfoot, Idaho, and Reserve Junior Champion Bull was Northern Gold shown by Star S Angus Ranch, Aurora, Oregon.

In the group classes Nonpareil Angus captured the Get-of-Sire division with calves sired by Sir Black William 1425. Ankony Shadow Isle captured the Junior Get with offspring of Schearbrook Conductor N137 as well as the Best Six Head.

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According to the National Livestock and Meat Board, COIN consists of an "initiating group" of 10 organizations and a larger "participating group" of 25 others. Included in the "initiating group" are: Exploratory Project of Economic Alternatives, Community Nutrition Institute, Consumer Federation of America, Public Citizen (Ralph Nader's group), National Council of Senior Citizens, National Urban League, Environmental Action, International Association of Machinists, International Union of Operating Engineers and the National Consumers League.

With supplies tight and higher prices likely over the next few years, the livestock industry must remain alert to questions and challenges from consumers and groups like COIN. They have already proven that they have more political influence than cattlemen. We will have to support the National Live Stock and Meat Board in their production of materials on rising prices and stretching the food dollar. Wide distribution of such materials to consumer groups may help them to understand the problems of producers.

Congressman "Chuck" Grassley, Iowa and Senator Bob Dole, Kansas are sponsoring a 1979 Counter-Cyclical Meat Import Bill. Legislation should be passed this year that allows another vote on a "Beferendum" that requires only a simple majority for passage. This will give cattlemen a lot more money for promotion and education. We can best help get such legislation passed by personal contact with Congressmen and by supporting the National Cattleman's Association.



Weir Is Elected Lamoine President

William Weir III, Gladstone, was elected president of the Lamoine Valley Angus Association at their recent meeting in Macomb. He replaces retiring president William Heck, St. Augustine.

Other officers are vice-president,

Dennis Allaman, Monmouth and secretary-treasurer, Tom Williams, Colmar.

Directors include Bill Heck, St. Augustine; Bill Eaton, Huntsville; George Sperry, Macomb; John Hamm, Adair; Gerald McMahon, Fairview; and John Pittman, Blandinsville.

Guest speakers were Gary Dameron, Lexington, secretary, and Bill Eaton, Huntsville, vice-president, Illinois State Angus Association; and Lyle Haring, De Witt, Iowa, regional manager, American Angus Association.

The group made plans for a field day and heifer show to be held at Western Illinois University, Macomb, June 24.



Clint Long Heads Gulf Coast Association

Clint Long, Seabrook, was elected president of the Gulf Coast (Texas) Angus Association at the organization's recent meeting in Houston. He replaces retiring president Lee Mueller, La Grange.

Elected vice-president was Bill Rutta, Columbus. Secretary-treasurer is Bob Sivyver, Houston.

It was announced that the Texas Angus Association Annual Field Day will be hosted by Gulf Coast members Roland and Sharon Burrows at their Rosharon Farms, Schulenberg, June 16.

Guest speakers were Ray Adams, Tahoka, director, National Angus Association; Jim Reeves, secretary, Texas Angus Association and Jim Campbell, Bowie.

Colorado Juniors Elect Officers

Tari Anne Smith, Longmont, was elected president of the Colorado Junior Angus Association at their annual meeting in Denver.

Other officers for the coming year are vice-president, Van Swanson, Longmont; secretary, Craig Sterkel, Longmont; and treasurer, Mike Vaughn, Henderson.

Adult advisors are Harold Andrews, Gill; Dick Biella, Louisville; Joe Smith, Longmont; Johnny Vaughn, Henderson; and Jim Stroh, Wray.