

# CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF



## Feeder Cooperation Important to Sire Evaluation Program

Evaluating sires for carcass merit requires a lot of cooperation, especially from the feeder. The feeder must first be willing to purchase identified calves. From that point, maintaining identity of the calves and keeping in close contact with Certified Angus Beef Program staff regarding projected market dates and locations is vital to complete the carcass data collection process.

When eastern Iowa feeder, Otto Badtke, started feeding cattle some 30 years ago, collecting carcass data wasn't his primary concern. "We got started in the cattle feeding business because we needed money," says Otto.

Since 1969, however, monitoring his fed cattle's carcass performance has been a priority. Otto won the Iowa Cedar Rapids Carcass Show that year and has since kept that focus.

In 1992 Otto became involved in carcass data collection for the American Angus Association's structured sire evaluation program when he purchased a set of sire identified calves from Jerry Petrich of Livingston, Mont.

Otto and his partner, Dermis Eggers, finish 500-600 head of Angus steers each year. Most steers are purchased from Montana ranchers through the Park County Feeders' Association. After seeing an advertisement in the *Drover's Journal* about this association nearly 30 years ago, Otto took a train from Iowa to Montana, visited several ranches and began purchasing Montana feeder cattle.

Otto says more than 90 percent of the steers he feeds are Angus for several reasons. "Most importantly, Angus cattle will finish in time to fit the April-May market," says Otto. "They also grade better for the packer, and I want cattle that will make money for me and the packer."

He places a strong emphasis on buying cattle that will produce less fat. "We need to get away from producing Yield Grade 4's" says Otto. "We need to produce more meat and less grease."

Most of Otto's cattle are marketed through IBP's Joslin, Ill., plant. After feeding the cattle rations of silage, ground hay and high moisture corn, the partners sort cattle that are ready and sell them on a live basis.

"Reputation cattle are the first to sell," says Otto.

As a participant in the sire evaluation program, Otto has played a significant role by taking extra effort to keep track of sire identified calves. He purchased two sets of identified calves this year and encouraged his neighbor to also feed a set of test calves. Although not required, Otto also goes one step further to make the carcass data collection process easier by sorting identified calves into truckloads.

Without the feeder's cooperation, the carcass data collection process for sire evaluation cannot be completed. The beef industry's future relies on more cooperative efforts such as this.

Otto's train trip to Montana provided a solid foundation for his cattle feeding business. Keeping his engines running, however, is providing a solid future. As Will Rogers said, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."



Otto Badtke (left) and his partner Dennis Eggers, want cattle that will make money for them and the packer



Above: Angus cattle on feed at Otto Badtke's Iowa farm in 1969. Twenty-five years later, his feedlots are still filled with Angus.



Right: A champion carcass from Badtke's 1969 pen of steers.

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For more information about feeding sire identified calves, contact Larry Dorsey at (406) 763-4366 or Kelly Frank at (303) 362-4315.

— *Larry Dosey & Jenny Stickley*

### **CAB Program Seeks Industry Input**

Rapid growth in demand for Certified Angus Beef™ product, particularly during the past few years, has encouraged American Angus Association leadership to evaluate efforts in developing future supply of Angus-type cattle meeting CAB Program carcass specifications.

On March 18 the Association and CAB Program hosted 20 beef industry leaders representing academia, cattle feeders, and registered and commercial Angus cattle breeders for a supply development strategic planning session.

Session participants included:

Ralph Bridges, Bridges Angus Farm,  
Lexington, Ga.  
Jon Ferguson, Ferguson Brothers,  
Kensington, Kan.  
Tom Field, Colorado State University,  
Ft. Collins  
Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch,  
Ashland, Kan.  
Jim Hagenbarth, Hagenbarth Livestock,  
Dillon, Mont.  
Bob Hillier, Bartlett Cattle Co., Garden  
City, Kan.  
Dick Janssen, Green Garden Angus,  
Ellsworth, Kan.  
John McNeil, Texas A&M University,  
College Station  
Butch Meier, Butch's Angus, Jackson,  
Mo.  
Bill Rishel, Rishel Angus, North Platte,  
Neb.  
Gene Rouse, Iowa State University, Ames  
Lawrason Sayre, Waffle Hill Farm,  
Churchville, Md.  
Cal Siegfried, Dawson Feeders,  
Lexington, Neb.  
Ken Stielow, Bar S Ranch, Paradise, Kan.  
Daryl Tatum, Colorado State University,  
Ft. Collins  
Gary Wickwar, T-Bone Feeders,  
Goodland, Kan.  
Darrell Wilkes, Integrated Beef  
Technologies, Englewood, Colo.  
Doyle Wilson, Iowa State University Ames

Association and CAB Program staff provided a summary of the current Certified Angus Beef product supply and demand situation. They also reviewed the supply development services being initiated to increase producer awareness and involvement in the CAB Program.

After this situation analysis was presented, session participants discussed issues relating to the lack of dollar per head premiums for cattle meeting the CAB Program carcass specifications, the impact of black breeds on the Program's certification rate, carcass data collection challenges, expansion of the carcass EPD database producer education and practical application of new technologies.

Input from the session was shared with Association Board members during

their March meeting. Further implementation of the ideas and suggestions will be considered by staff with additional strategic plans being developed and presented to the Board during upcoming meetings.

More than 3.3 million head of Angus-type cattle were identified for the CAB Program during the 1993 fiscal year. Of those, only 589,000 (17.7 percent) met the Program's carcass specifications.

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