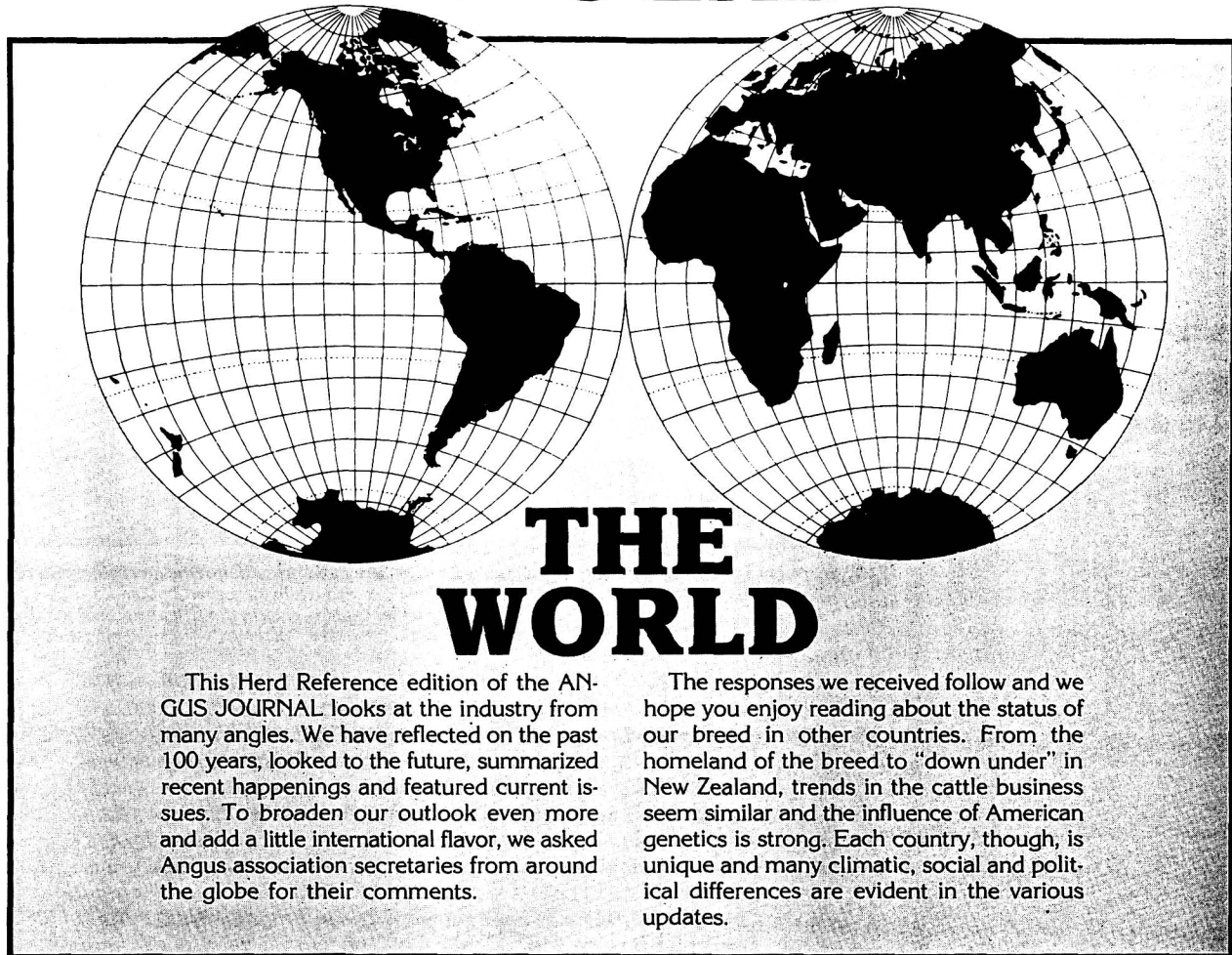


# ANGUS AROUND



## Angus In The Breed's Homeland

by R. Anderson  
Secretary, Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society

I am happy to report that the Aberdeen-Angus (note that we still use the proper name and not the shortened version!) breed in the United Kingdom is in good heart. The Society has an active and enthusiastic membership which is never content to stand still but has a progressive approach to breeding, using many of the modern techniques available today allied to generations of expertise in stockmanship. I know that there are many who, when thinking of Aberdeen-Angus in the homeland of the breed, still picture the type popular in the 50s and 60s. One can't help a wry smile at the surprise of some overseas breeders who have visited herds in this country recently.

In the United Kingdom the breed has been going through a transition period since the boom years of the 50s and early 60s when high prices and an insatiable export

demand for the smaller, blocky type of Aberdeen-Angus were the order of the day at big sales in Perth. After a slow start, breeders awakened and responded to the changing market demand. Tremendous progress has been made in the past decade to breed the taller, longer and stretchier type of Aberdeen-Angus required for the present day.

This is borne out by official results from the Meat and Livestock Commission which show that over a seven-year period, the average weight of all Aberdeen-Angus bulls (close to 1,000 are weight-recorded every year) at 500 days has increased by 44 kg. (97 lb.). This indicates real genetic improvement in the growth-rate factor as management systems for bull production have changed little over the last few years. The average height has increased correspond-

ingly and backfat measurements have decreased.

### The Question of How Big

The dilemma facing breeders is just how far they should go in this quest for greater size. In this country the breed depends on the commercial, cross-breeding market for its survival and, while commercial breeders are certainly looking for larger Aberdeen-Angus bulls, demand at recent sales has clearly indicated that they also want good fleshing ability and well-developed hind-quarters—two of the breed's traditional characteristics.

With feed grain selling for at least 120 pounds (approximately \$187, May 1983) per ton as a result of EEC support policy, feeders are obviously demanding easily-fleshed cattle that will finish easily on grass



*Scottish Champion: Heathlands Proud Rufus stood as junior champion bull at the most recent Perth Show and Sale in Scotland. Bred by Brian Carter, Norfolk, the 17-month-old bull weighed 650 kg. (1,433 lb.) and stood 132.5 cm. (52.2 inches) at the rump. A trend for larger cattle is evident in the homeland of the Angus breed, but breeders are not convinced that they should aim towards the "extremes"—easy-fleshing ability and calving ease are still of primary importance.*

or silage and cheap, arable by-products.

Breeders are also anxious that the breed retains its easy-calving attribute and latest figures from the Milk Marketing Board show that the larger Aberdeen-Angus have retained this advantage. They had the lowest rate of serious calving difficulty at 2 percent when mated with Friesian heifers, compared with 3.1 percent for Hereford, 6.9 percent for Limousin and 8.8 percent for Simmental.

Breeders are adapting the breed for the 1980s against this commercial background. Most breeders remain unconvinced that we should go all the way towards the "extreme" type of cattle at which some seem to be aiming in North America. Nonetheless, cattle imported from Canada, as well as from New Zealand, Australia and Ireland, have made a significant contribution to bringing the size of British Aberdeen-Angus back towards what it was 40 to 50 years ago. It is interesting to note, in passing, that the champion at our spring show and sale at Perth this year was 100 percent British breeding.

#### **Seed Stock for a Commercial Market**

The breed has, of course, faced increased competition from the imported Continental breeds. Many of these breeds arrived in a blaze of publicity and have never been heard of again. But others, such as the Charolais and Simmental, undoubtedly have made an impact and are here to stay.

Britain is a fairly small island, but one with a wide variation of climatic, soil and environmental conditions. Partly because of this, and to gain the benefits of hybrid vigor, we have traditionally had a crossbreeding policy in our commercial beef herd, using

breeds whose attributes are best suited to the area in which they are being used. For example, it may be that an Aberdeen-Angus bull is used as the terminal sire on a hardy hill cow such as a Shorthorn x Galloway; on better land a Continental breed might be used on an Aberdeen-Angus x Friesian cow, the latter being a by-product of the dairy herd where Aberdeen-Angus are used on heifers for ease of calving.

Although a small island, Britain has ten times the population-per-square-mile of the U.S. Therefore, a very high proportion of the total cattle population in Britain must be in the dairy herd, especially in areas where the population is most dense. In turn, this means that a considerable proportion (something in the order of 60 to 70 percent) of the beef production in Britain is a by-product of the dairy breeds. (Per person consumption of beef in the United Kingdom is one-half that of the U.S., New Zealand and Australia, and one-quarter of that in Argentina.)

Pedigree breeding has always, therefore, been aimed at producing seed stock for the cross-bred commercial herd and not as an end-product in itself. Also, purebred cattle are a fairly small part of the total beef cattle population of some 1.5 million breeding cows. The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society registers approximately 2,000 pedigree heifers and 1,500 pedigree bulls annually. Therefore, a heavy responsibility lies with the skill of our breeders in making progress using these relatively small numbers.

#### **Certified Aberdeen-Angus Beef**

The multiplicity of breeds and crosses now available has wreaked havoc with the

commercial beef herd. As a result, the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society recently launched a certified Aberdeen-Angus beef scheme in an attempt to identify genuine Aberdeen-Angus beef from "conception to consumption" and secure a premium for the genuine article.

This scheme was introduced in response to complaints from leading meat traders and butchers who have found it increasingly difficult to secure regular supplies of authentic, quality Aberdeen-Angus beef. Response has been such that present supply is falling far short of demand and a premium of up to 10p a kg is being paid. Two producer cooperatives have been formed to ensure a regular, year-round supply of a standard high-quality product. Strict quality standards are being imposed; only shops and supermarkets handling 100 percent certified Aberdeen-Angus beef are recognized by the issue of a special plaque and point-of-sale promotional material.

The next stage will be to tag calves at birth and ensure a regular supply of both calves and stores for finishers.

#### Angus Well Represented

As mentioned earlier, we have an active membership, many of whom make full use of various research and advisory services available. The majority of breeders use facilities of the national Meat & Livestock Commission who record on-farm statistics, operate bull test centers, etc., in this country.

Aberdeen-Angus are well represented at all the major agricultural shows, fatstock shows and carcass shows. At the most recent of the famous Royal Smithfield fatstock shows, 12 out of the 16 first prize winners had Aberdeen-Angus blood. Last year at the Royal Show, an Aberdeen-Angus bull was placed reserve in competition with 55 bulls of all beef breeds in the "looks plus performance" class for beef recorded bulls.

At major sales, all bulls are inspected by two veterinary surgeons, one of whom is an expert dentition. The bulls are weighed, the height is measured and this information is displayed in the pens.

During the year, approximately one in every 20 bull calves registered is inspected at 2 to 3 months of age, when the calf is mothered; tattoos are checked and the calf appraised as to whether it appears correct for age.

Summing up, at all times we keep in mind that our customer is the commercial beef producer. To suit his needs we aim for bulls with a good growth rate while maintaining the essential Aberdeen-Angus attributes of good hindquarters and easy fleshing on low cost forage diets, always guarding our reputation as the easy-calving breed for both the dairy farmer and beef producer.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Aberdeen-Angus breeders from the homeland of the breed, to congratulate the American Angus on their Centenary. May you go from strength to strength in the next 100 years.



## Angus In Argentina Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow

When the first "polled blacks" arrived in Argentina from their native Scotland just a century ago, there was no indication of the extraordinary success the breed would have in our country. It was 1879 and domestic breeders had just entered the "Age of the Pedigree," a period of revolutionary change during which the first large ranches were established and herds were being improved through the importation of British stock and systematic crossbreeding.

Traditional breeds, such as the legendary Shorthorns and Herefords (introduced to Argentina in 1823 and 1862 respectively), completely dominated the attention and efforts of ranchers. Thus, the arrival in 1879 of the first Aberdeen-Angus animals imported by Carlos Guerrero, a Buenos Aires rancher, brought forth a great deal of good-natured derision from fellow breeders who called Guerrero an eccentric and considered the animals useful only as ornaments. But, as with so many other things, the course of time was to prove the "experts" wrong and confirm the "eccentric's" vision.

#### A Time-Honored Breed

At the time, Aberdeen-Angus had a solid reputation for beef production in Europe. Ancient documents, some dating back to 1523, mention the breed in the Scottish counties of Forfar (formerly Angus), Aberdeen, Kincardine, Banff and Moray. The breed's characteristics and international reputation actually date from the 19th century, when the efforts of pioneers succeeded in establishing the typical animal.

One of these pioneers was Hugh Watson, who set up an operation in 1808 in Keillor, County Forfar, with 16 cows and two bulls. He began systematic breeding in order to establish a definite type and achieved success as evidenced by a later historian who wrote, "there is not a single group in the breed which does not owe something to the Keillor bloodline." Watson's work continued until 1860 and during this time he earned no less than 500 prizes.

The privilege of establishing the "polled black's" reputation first in the British Isles and later on the international scene, how-

#### GREETINGS FELLOW ENTREPRENEURS;

Our country (Bear Grove Township, Guthrie County, Iowa) has experienced one of the most adverse calving seasons in history. The many, many hours of fighting the mud gives one much time to cogitate.

Wouldn't it be great if we could breed the cow that would put calving on hold until the temperature was above freezing, with the sun shining and the wind less than 10 miles per hour? The marsupials can vary gestation from one month, normal, to many months in times of drouth. The bear can hibernate for months with little maintenance. I figure if we could genetically engineer our cows to have both of these traits, when we had over-production, we could dry-lot our cows and simulate drouth conditions and hibernate them through the winter. Then, if we could only get our bankers with the same disposition (freeze our notes), we would have it made.

With A.I. season coming up, I am ordering my electronic bolus for each cow, programmed to activate yearly at breeding season and emit an individual signal when the cow comes in heat (activated by a change in body temperature).

However, since these things are all in the dream state, I figure that our selection for bull fertility and libido, regularity of calving, intense mothering ability and calf vigor and turning out the calf and cow that can grow in timber to fend for themselves has pulled us through in great stead for the great crop of calves by Cracker Jack, Jack Son, Power Play, Shoshone and Jumbo 22D.

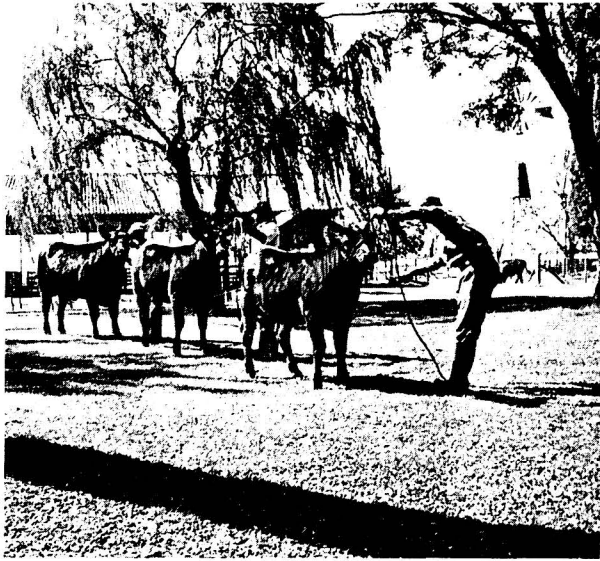
The modern advances in technology in animal production are tremendous thought provokers. However the cattle industry, to flourish, needs less labor, fewer problems demanding individual attention and more maintenance-free cattle. This has been, and will continue to be, our goal, thereby helping the beef industry become more efficient.

We invite you to stop by and inspect the results of our program and to share your views with us.

Yours for more efficient beef production.

Sincerely,

Jim Bradford  
Guthrie Center, Iowa



These three were members of La Primavera Ranch's show string last year. The Argentinian firm, owned by Mario Bustillos, exhibited the grand champion bull at the 1982 Palermo show. La Primavera will also be included as a stop on the Association's upcoming market tour.

## Herds Featured On Upcoming South American Tour

*Top Priority 1994 ("Super Bull"), shown by La Nichloasa Ranch, Buenos Aires, was named reserve grand champion bull at the 1981 Palermo show. La Nicolasa Ranch, owned by Alberto Busquet, will be featured as a herd stop during the American Angus Assn.'s Argentina and Brazil Angus Market Study Tour, Nov. 25 to Dec. 11.*



ever, fell to one of Watson's compatriots, William M'Combie from the county of Aberdeen. From 1832, the year in which he won his first prize, until his death in 1880, M'Combie worked incessantly, accumulating 40 cups and 130 medals. His ultimate triumph came in the Paris Exposition of 1878, where his lot of Aberdeen-Angus was judged superior to all other participating breeds, including Shorthorn and Hereford. For his success in bringing fame to these animals and encouraging their spread on all continents, M'Combie has rightfully been called the "great propagator of the breed."

### A Difficult Beginning in Argentina

The first three "polled blacks" imported by Torrome Sons for Guerrero were registered in the English Herd Book as follows: BULL: **Virtuoso**, No. 1626, born 19 April 1878, bred by Colonel Ferguson, imported into the Republic of Argentina in 1879 for Carlos Guerrero (Buenos Aires). HEIFER: **Aunt Lee**, No. 4697, born 31 January 1878, bred by John James, imported into the Republic of Argentina in 1879 for Carlos Guerrero (Buenos Aires). HEIFER: **Cinderella**, No. 4698, born 23 April 1878, bred by R. Walker, imported

into the Republic of Argentina in 1879 for Carlos Guerrero (Buenos Aires).

These animals were the nucleus of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in Argentina. Today, a century later, this breed is the country's primary asset in livestock resources, making up 59.8 percent of cattle herd totals.

The first years were difficult for the "polled blacks" whose unusual appearance made them oddities at the initial Palermo exhibitions. They excited public attention but did not generate enthusiasm among breeders. Little by little, however, the tenacious efforts of pioneer promoters (Guerrero was soon joined by Pedro Piran, General Francisco Bosch, John Nelson, Celedonio Pereda, Pedro Ezcurra, Federico Roth, W. Robertson Grant, Juan A. Brown, Ricardo Sauze, Benito Villanueva, Alfredo F. de Urquiza, Ricardo Hogg, Manuel A. Erausquin and others) succeeded in spreading the breed.

### Success

The year 1912 saw the publication of the first volume of the Argentine Aberdeen-Angus Herd Book. This edition included animals awarded prizes in shows held by the Argentinian Rural Association since 1902. The number of males included under the bull Syphon (born on Sept. 15, 1894) already was at 2,103, while 2,405 females were listed under the cow Burette (born on Dec. 8, 1893). In 1908 the Angus group had also taken a historic step in a breed contest at the Palermo exhibition; the breed championship, instituted by Hogg, was awarded to Central Duke 59 from the John A. Brown line, and he was purchased by Federico de Alvear for the record sum of 2,500 pesos.

In 1916, Guerrero showed Lord Charles at Palermo and won the breed champion-

*Continued on Page 499*



ship. In 1918, another Guerrero animal, Imperialist of Charles, won first prize and commanded a new record price of 10,000 pesos. As one author indicated, from this moment the Aberdeen-Angus breed was "on the path to success, and running rather than walking in order to make up for the time during which it was ignored by most native breeders."

A definite stage was passed on Sept. 18, 1920 when the Argentine Aberdeen-Angus Corporation was founded in a meeting at the offices of Carlos and Hector M. Guerrero in Buenos Aires. Twenty-seven breeders were present at this meeting during which Alberto W. Brown assumed the presidency of the first Provisional Steering Commission. From its inception, the new association became the driving force behind the advancement of Angus in Argentina. The Revista Aberdeen-Angus, first published in 1939 during the presidency of Sauze, became its primary publicity arm.

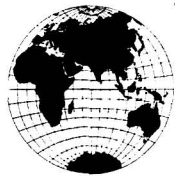
Ultimate success was achieved during the 1940s when adaptability, hardiness, fertility and beef quality made Aberdeen-Angus the breed of choice. During the 1942 exhibition, Aberdeen-Angus broke all records since their first introduction in 1888 when, in the words of one observer, "Palermo witnessed the humble arrival of the first two animals." The prime mover behind this success was Jilman Dunira of Cascada 28, a bull shown by Julio L. Perckins and selected as grand champion. He sold for 72,000 pesos, an amount which exceeded even the sums obtained for the traditional breed champions.

### The New Type

Since that time Aberdeen-Angus breeders have continued in their advancement. The group of 27 founding members has grown to a membership of 10,000. The "polled blacks" which made up 9.4 percent of national herds have now come to represent 59.8 percent of all national breeding stock. Some 1,118,000 pedigreed animals have been registered since the inception of the Rural Association records while in 1978 alone, 29,980 calves were recorded. This number greatly exceeds the figures for all other breeds.

Meanwhile, the breed's future is being assured by the development of a new and superior standard called the new type. This is a broader and taller Aberdeen-Angus with less fat, capable of increased total beef yield. Since 1974, the Corporation has gone to great lengths to broaden the distribution of animals which combine good size and important beef characteristics with the breed's traditional quality.

Within a few years the new type will reach full distribution through controlled, purebred bulls imparting new characteristics to general herds. These characteristics will undoubtedly pass on to all Argentinian livestock. Thus, breeders have given new evidence of their true and fundamental *raison d'être*: The most successful breed in the best beef-producing country.



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## Angus In Ireland

by Anthony Troy  
Secretary, Irish Angus Cattle  
Society Ltd.

Angus breeding has been practiced in Ireland since before 1850. Indeed, the first volume of the Scottish Herd Book, published in 1862, contains entries by Irish breeders. While it took some time for the breed to assert itself, there were over 200 Angus herds in Ireland by the turn of the century. In succeeding years, the superb quality of the Angus-Shorthorn cross became more and more recognized in expanding commercial markets and premium prices were paid for these blue-gray crosses.

The Irish Angus Cattle Society was established in 1967, having as its main objective the development and improvement of the breed in Ireland. Herd book rules provide for inspection of all animals as a prerequisite for registration, thus ensuring and enhancing genetic merit of the breed.

At the time the Society was established, Irish members were aware that their animals lacked a sufficiently fast growth rate and large mature size necessary for profitable beef production. Therefore, they set about improving their stock through active participation in the National Program for Genetic Improvement of Beef Cattle and by judicious importations of bulls and semen from the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. Improvement, especially in the past decade, has been very marked. This has ensured Irish Angus a continuing place in beef production, even in the face of keen

competition from other traditional breeds as well as larger Continental breeds.

In addition to pedigree breeding, there is a considerable market for Angus in dairy herds. Because of their renowned easy-calving characteristics, Angus are used extensively for dairy heifer matings where ease of calving is a priority.

Angus breeding in Ireland is concentrated in the West and Northwest of the country, where qualities of hardiness and ability to thrive under less favorable grazing conditions are well recognized. Herds are on a relatively small scale compared with other countries where Angus are raised. This means, however, that the Irish breeder can give individual attention and care to the breeding and management of his stock. Because of small herd size, production sales are rare; instead, bull disposals generally take place through shows and sales. Carrick-on-Shannon in County Leitrim is the venue for major Angus bull sales each spring.

There are over 300 pedigree Angus breeders in Ireland at present. Approximately 200 are members of the Irish Angus Society, while the remainder are members of the Aberdeen-Angus Society in Scotland which continues to operate here. Up to 600 purebred Angus are registered each year. Despite these comparatively small numbers, the breed exercises considerable influence

over the national herd through crossbreeding, which is practiced extensively in Ireland.

The popularity of Angus is demonstrated by the fact that in A.I., which is used for about 60 percent of the total cow population, Angus was second only to Hereford for beef breed inseminations in 1982. With a fairly high usage of A.I. in Ireland in recent years, there has been a slight decline in demand for bulls for natural service. However, there is always a market for good quality. The Irish Society's requirement of pre-inspection for registration purposes ensures this good quality.

The National Weight Recording Scheme, which is extensively used by Irish Angus breeders, is another influencing factor in the Society's efforts to maintain, and indeed accelerate, improvement in the breed. A further step in breed improvement is the purchase by the Society of semen of top-quality bulls from abroad which is subsequently made available to members at subsidized cost.

The Irish Angus Society acknowledges that, in order to retain and expand its share of the market for its members, a more intensive policy of promotion and publicity for the breed is necessary. At present the Society subsidizes Angus classes at a number of regional shows. In addition, it will sponsor an All Shows Championship for 1983 at which class winners from regional shows will compete for an overall Angus championship.



## Angus Still A Force To Be Reckoned With In Zimbabwe

by M.I. Prentice

Secretary, Aberdeen Angus Cattle Club of Zimbabwe

The Angus breed is one of the oldest beef breeds in Zimbabwe; the first importations took place from the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom at the turn of the century. Angus are most popular in this country when crossed with one of the Bos Indicus breeds such as Afrikaner or Brahman.

There are only seven registered breeders of Angus in Zimbabwe, and between them they carry about 1,600 registered animals.

The Zimbabwe Herd Book (Z.H.B.) is the new association which keeps all records on registered animals and is responsible for birth notifications, levies, registration fees, etc. Our secretary is an employee of Z.H.B. After the association is notified of the birth of an eligible calf, the normal policy is to wait until this animal is approximately 2 years old before it is inspected and, if passed, registered.

### Performance Testing

Most of our breeders are involved in keeping performance data on individual animals, especially in the case of bull calves. Average weights are: 210 kg. (463 lb.) at

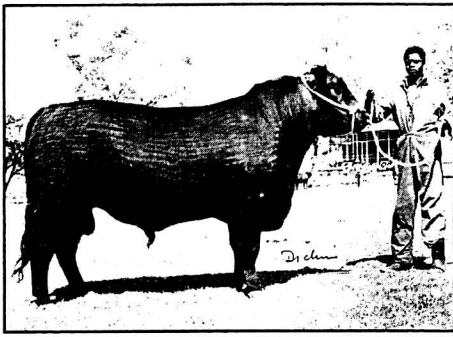
205 days, 300 kg. (661 lb.) at 365 days, and 600 kg. (1,322 lb.) at 730 days. These average weights are continually improving as we strive for a larger framed animal.

At present, our Animal Breeders Co-op is conducting a performance testing scheme on a farm just outside Harare. Ten Angus are represented out of a total of 120 bulls. It appears that the Angus are performing favorably, but the diet is ad lib and some of the continental breeds tend to be eating more and consequently gain more weight.

Angus breeders are keen on holding field days to promote their breed. Last year one such event was held on Selby Farm and this attracted 120 spectators. Due to a severe drought this year, farmers are tending to be more conservative, and no such day is planned for the immediate future.

### American Sires Represented in Shows

Showing pedigree stock in Zimbabwe is still a popular means of advertising the breed. Angus are always represented at our major show, the Harare Agriculture Show. In the last five years only Duncan Black and Keith Kirkman have competed, but each



*Shelby Furnace, exhibited by D.H. Black and Sons, was junior and grand champion Angus bull at Zimbabwe's main show in Harare. Only seven breeders register Angus in this country, but they own about 1,600 purebreds.*

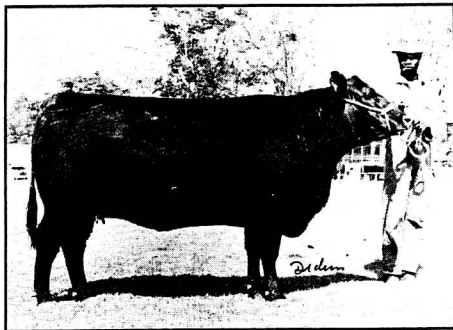
have shown large strings of cattle. Between these two top breeders they have won numerous inter-breed awards. Both the champion Angus male owned by Black and the champion Angus cow owned by Kirkman (pictured) have American bloodlines in their breeding.

This year we have an overseas judge coming to judge the Angus at Harare for the first time; she is Mrs. Margaret Walker of Newark Castle, Ayr, Scotland. We are looking forward as breeders to this privilege.

#### **Drought Affects Sales**

The current drought will definitely be the major factor influencing demand for all pedigree stock this season. Usually about 200 Angus bulls are sold annually in this country at an average price of \$1,000 (Z) (this refers to Zimbabwe dollars—a recent exchange rate shows this to equal about \$1,075). Female stock is not usually sold and inferior heifers are usually retained for crossbreeding purposes. Most animals are sold at public auctions, although a number are sold privately for commercial purposes.

For the second year in succession, the Angus Society is holding a slaughter competition, in which a truckload of 25 animals are awarded points on fleshing, age and fat cover. These animals must have a minimum of one Angus parent in the  $F_2$  offspring. Prizes are sponsored by agricultural back-up firms, and this year it is hoped to have an awards dinner.



*Kirkdown Abele 2nd Rito 149, owned by Keith Kirkman, was champion Angus female at the Harare show. Kirkman and Black represent the country's strongest competitors; Angus are used mainly in crossbreeding programs.*

babwe have combined in recent months, with the aim of promoting these two related breeds. As mentioned earlier, Angus are suited for crossing in this tropical climate. The Brangus-type cow is our ideal  $F_1$  dam, and when crossed with the larger continental breeds the  $F_2$  is highly desirable in the feedlot.

All our breeders are shifting from smaller to taller, larger framed Angus. Breeders have used a great deal of American, Cana-

dian and New Zealand semen in achieving this goal.

If any of you breeders are interested in visiting our country, be it to judge at a show or solely for a holiday and to see Angus cattle, we will go out of our way to make your stay a very pleasant one. For details contact our Secretary, Mrs. M.I. Prentice, P.O. Box BE 228, Belvedere, Harare; or Mr. D.A. Black, P.O. Box EH 92, Emerald Hill, Harare.



## **Update On New Zealand Happenings**

by S.J. Bosomworth  
Secretary, New Zealand Angus Assn.

#### **National Herd Tour**

Over 200 people participated as tour members, hosts, couriers or guests at the 1983 annual herd tour during the driest autumn experienced in Hawkes Bay for many years. Three days of travel took the tour from sea level to 1,600 ft. through brown parched pastures to more fortunate areas where the usual abundant autumn grass was seen. Twenty-four studs had on display their current herd sires, rising 2-year-old bulls for

this season's market and cows and calves, although many properties were unable to show the breeding herd as it was grazing out of the district.

An important feature of the tour is the inspection clinic and open forum discussion run by the Council. This year Mr. Charles Nairn gave a practical outline of the classification system of the New Zealand Assn. for sires to be used for artificial breeding.

The Hawkes Bay Angus Assn. conducted

a sale of selected in-calf heifers. The top price was \$4,000 for an Endsleigh-bred heifer and the championship went to the Waiwhero stud.

Bull buyers were already operating during the tour and top prices were paid for proven herd sires. Kauere 102/8, bred by HF Saunders, was sold by Kawatiri stud for \$21,000. Lopdell Bros. sold the JR Fraser-bred sire, Stern Civilian, for \$20,000.

#### **Better Prospects for Beef than Sheep**

New Zealand would kill about 33 million lambs this year, exceeding the previous record kill by nearly two million, said Peter Snelling, manager of Thos. Borthwick and Sons Livestock. He spoke to New Zealand Angus Assn. breeders and commercial cattle breeders at the Central North Island Angus Bull Test station recently.

The record comes at a time of distinct international economic downturn and consequently a rather weak market demand. This results largely from lamb being a meat favored by relatively few countries. Beef is far more acceptable world-wide than lamb. "There is room for optimism for chilled beef sales," said Snelling. "The market for this product has been good for sometime."

Snelling did not suggest, however, that the beef situation was without problems. According to him, the government Supplementary Minimum Price (SMP) programs, as they applied to beef, were drastically in need of revision.

Since the SMP (guaranteed price to the

farmer) on manufacturing cattle in relation to prime grade cattle was out of balance, he said, the breeder had found his cow herd most uneconomic and was thus tending to increase his sheep flocks at the expense of beef breeding cows. The production of prime beef was not encouraged within the SMP system; the government was paying 14 cents per kilo at one stage, whereas manufacturing beef was attracting an SMP of 32 cents a kilo. It appeared logical to Snelling that SMP's should be paid equally on all beef. He concluded, though, that the outlook for New Zealand beef production holds considerably more promise than for sheep and lamb.

Two other bull test stations at Hawkes Bay and Manawatu completed successful weigh days at the end of summer. The prime object of these venues is to feed selected weaned bull calves from registered Angus breeders together, under the same conditions, to the end of a 550-day period. These calves are checked and weighed monthly by officials and the data collated.

February each year sees animals with superior genetic qualities emerge as potential breed improvers. Angus breeders in recent years have made real progress in producing larger, growthier modern-type sires currently required by commercial beef farmers and the meat industry.

#### **New Zealanders Outbid Australians**

Four New Zealand Angus cattle breeders

paid a record price of \$40,000 at the Seventh Suzuki Angus Beef Classic Sale, Victoria, Australia, this month to bring back to this country a bull of 100 percent New Zealand bloodlines.

The outstanding rising 3-year-old bull, Wilson Downs Zenith, was placed Supreme Champion of the Classic Show of 86 entries by judge Larry Cotton of Michigan. Cotton visited several South Island Angus studs on his way home to the U.S.

#### **Royal Agricultural Society Show**

Sixty-seven animals, the largest entry of Angus cattle exhibited at a Christchurch Royal Show for many years, included 20 entries from the North Island. The judge was David Williamson, Feilding, and associate judge was Alister Smith, Ashburton.

The Meat and Wool Cup winner, Stern Black Power 425 shown by J. Robin Fraser, Pleasant Point, Canterbury, headed a line of 45 Angus cattle for the grand parade. The Meat and Wool Cup is awarded to the best registered purebred beef animal, judged by all breed judges.

Prior to exhibiting at the 1982 Royal Show, Fraser had accepted an invitation from the Canadian Government, the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan and the officials of the Canadian Western Agribition to be a guest at the 1982 Canadian Western Agribition, Regina, Sask.

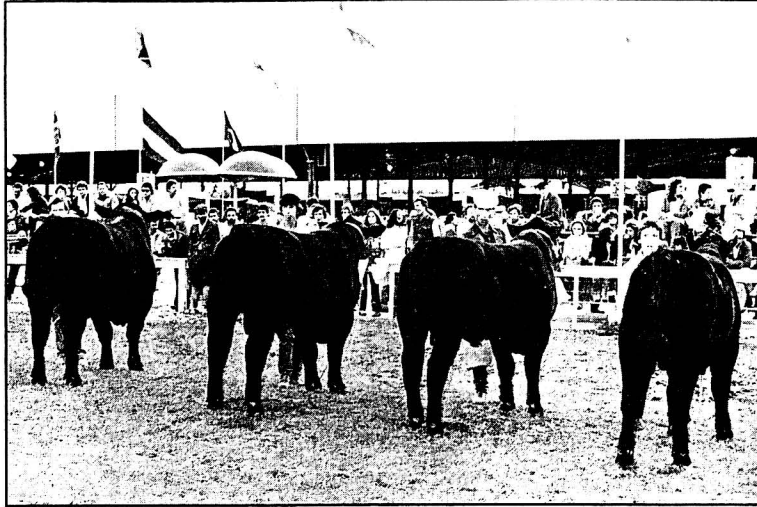
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## Brazilian Assn. Marks 20th Year

by Carlos Cesar Silva de Albuquerque  
President, Brazilian Assn. of  
Aberdeen-Angus



*These bulls competed for grand champion of the 1982 International Exposition of Esteio, the most important agricultural and cattle fair in Brazil.*

Since 1970, Brazilian seed stock has been influenced strongly by American and Canadian bloodlines. The "new type" of Angus has been completely and perfectly accepted by breeders.

The Brazilian Assn. of Aberdeen-Angus is very young; it will be 20 years old this September. It is located in Ruruguaiana, a town close to Argentina's frontier. The Association is made up of 300 members at present, and a dynamic selection program for bulls and females is being developed.

Current president of the Association is Carlos Cesar Silva de Albuquerque, who has a herd near Porto Alegre (the capital of Rio Grande do Sul). Other officers are: Eduardo de Macedo Linhares, first vice-president; Mrs. Carla S.S. Schneider, second vice-president; Flavio Antonio Franco Tellechea, secretary; Nelson Bastos Pinto, second secretary; Antonio Martins Bastos Filho, treasurer; Mrs. Maria Helena Lanca Macedo, second treasurer; and Irajá Cibils, director of public relations.

An extensive schedule of shows and sales is planned for the coming year by the Brazilian Assn. For further information, contact President Silva.

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In Brazil, Aberdeen-Angus are bred as pure stock mainly in the southern area. The biggest and best breeding stocks are sited in Rio Grande do Sul, a province close to Argentina and Uruguay. In other areas there is a strong predominance of Zebu Cattle, thus Angus are utilized only for industrial crossbreeding.

Angus reached Brazil at the end of the last century and the first registration of animals in the herd book dates from 1902. Currently, the herd book includes about 50,000 entries. Annually, over 18 percent of the purebred registered animals at the Breeder's National Assn. are Angus. At the present time the Angus breed includes three million head and is among the five biggest beef cattle herds of the country.



*Three million head of Angus cattle make up 18 percent of the purebred Brazilian population. They are primarily raised in southern Brazil and used in crossbreeding programs.*