

from the office

LEAD IN

By Richard Spader
Executive Vice President
American Angus Association



As we look back in history to the original American Angus Assn. Charter and By-Laws established in 1883, it is fairly specific where the breed organization's responsibility lies. That is to "collect, verify, preserve and publish the pedigrees of the breed known as Polled Aberdeen-Angus so as to maintain unimpaired the purity of said breed." The charter goes on to list additional responsibilities as a need to "perform such acts incidental and supplementary thereto as will, in the judgment of the Association, best promote the interests of said cattle in America."

Sounds fairly simple, doesn't it? Yet for 100 years your Association's board of directors, the membership and staff have strived diligently to improve our system of maintaining the purity and integrity of registered Angus and promote the programs and best interest of Angus seed stock. This devotion has led us to an enviable position—No. 1 in the industry.

Our future as a breed organization has and still lies in the concept of purebred cattle backed by pedigree and, more importantly, dedicated breeders of registered Angus cattle. The registration certificate is an integral part of the system of breeding purebred cattle. Without the pedigree, the beef cattle business would not have advanced and improved as it has today. The registration was and still is necessary in the development and maintenance of purebred breeds of livestock.

And as our industry has progressed we have also seen changes entering into our system of improving livestock through the use of pedigreed cattle. This new concept

incorporates the vast amount of data available to include performance with pedigree. Today we combine performance with pedigree numbers unduplicated in the breed to offer the most complete programs available to improve our Angus business and status in the industry.

In addition, we have documented the important traits of economic importance and have established heritability estimates for these traits. This enables breeders to design breeding programs that can maximize genetic change and make breeding programs more valuable. Most importantly, this becomes extremely valuable as registered seed stock is utilized by the commercial industry.

The beef cattle industry is very much indebted to the purebred breeders who have accepted the challenge and have maintained our breed of cattle. The heterosis that exists today to the commercial livestock producer exists as a direct result of breed formations and the breed associations who promoted, encouraged, developed and maintained these breeds of livestock.

The goal of breeding better beef cattle is a challenge for all Angus breeders. In addition, our breed represents a genetic resource to be used commercially in the improvement of the industry. This means our status has not changed. The Angus breed, you as breeders, and your Association are more important today than you have ever been in the history of commercial livestock production . . . a thought to bear in mind as we embark on our second century.

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