

In an era when "Big" is supposed to mean "Better" in many businesses it is heartening to note that this does not apply to Angus breeders. A family size herd where quality is the keynote is still the backbone of our Angus business. There is a good market for the surplus production.

Typical of these quality farm herds is Double G Angus Farm near Oxford, in eastern Iowa. Double G is a father-son partnership, George J. Swenka and George V. Swenka. At one time a herd of another breed was maintained but eventually was sold off. "When George V. was in high school," the father relates, "his interest in cattle prompted the decision to establish a quality operation." This was in 1961.

With the goal of uniformity in the

foundation in mind the first purchase was 15 weaning heifer calves, all half-sisters. The next year 10 more heifer calves, all by the sire of the first group, were purchased. The 25 half-sisters were the foundation of the Swenka herd. The sire of these calves was RM Rowley 5, grandson of imported Prince Rowley in the Ed Jenkins herd Virginia. RM Rowley 5 was a big bull at a time when ton bulls were not popular. His heifers had quality and size, were regular producers and good milkers. The last of the foundation females is still in the herd, but more of her later. She had quite a record.

Things began to look up at Double G when Biffles Emulous 1124 was purchased from Ned Biffle

The Double At Swenka



Oklahoma. At first glance, and with prices not as high as they are now, he represented a rather stiff investment. But mated to the Rowley cows and their daughters the resulting progeny made him a bargain. They had length and elevation and were today's kind.

Biffles Emulous 1124 is getting some years on him but is still impressive in pasture condition weighing over 2,200 pounds. He is by Biffles Emulous 939, his dam Biffles Lucy 962. His tabulation shows Emulous TN 70 three times.

He has done a phenomenal breeding job in the Swenka herd—size, uniformity and style. His greatest contribution came from his mating with the last of the foundation half-sisters, Blackcap of C C

111. A great producer with a progeny average ratio of 107, the mating with "1124" produced a bull calf that was exceptional from birth. Now known as Double G Emulous 775 he had a weaning weight of 715 pounds and a yearling weight of 1,188 pounds. In addition he had correctness and style.

The Swenkas knew that they had a bull that needed public exposure. They themselves were not fixed for showing. At the 1976 Iowa Futurity sale the elder Swenka mentioned to Henry Bergfeld, general manager of Summitcrest Farms of Ohio, that Double G had an exceptional bull calf that they would like Henry to see. Two weeks later Henry came by and was impressed, so impressed that Summitcrest agreed to show

him as well as acquiring an interest in him.

Today Double G Emulous 775 is better known as "George" and needs an introduction to few Angus people. In 1976 he was Junior Champion at Ohio and Reserve Grand Champion at Kentucky. In 1977 George was the winningest two-year old bull on the show circuit. First place and various championships were scored at Iowa, Nebraska, the American Royal, Louisville and the American Futurity.

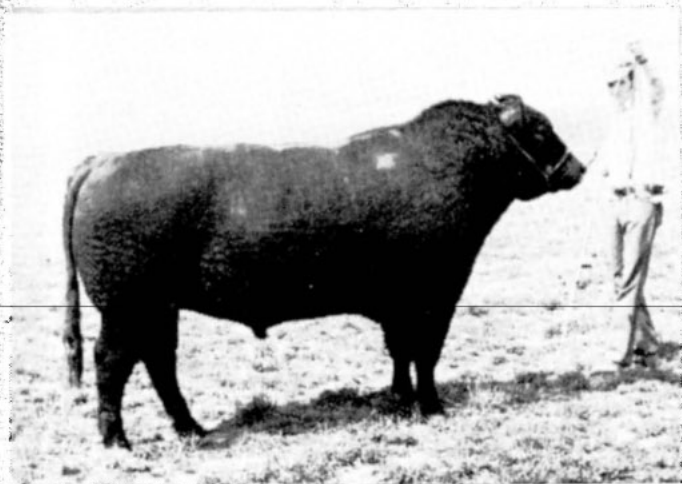
Although he has a most impressive show record it appears that his fame will be made by his sons and daughters. Last year "George" was the sire of the Junior and Grand

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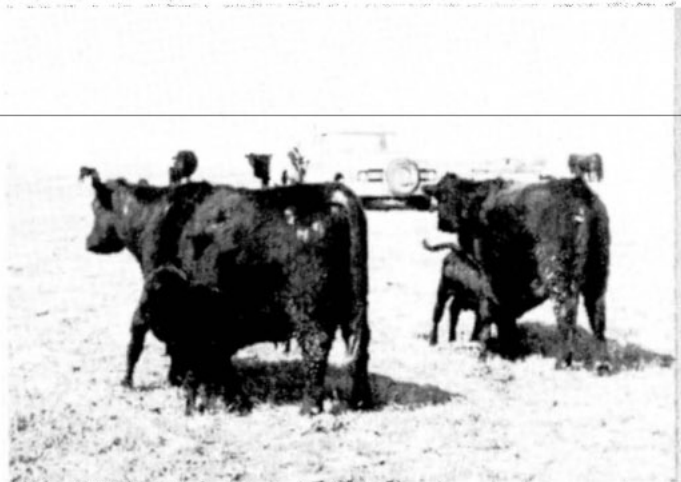
Way ka Angus



The "Double G's" of Double "G" Angus Farm—Mr. and Mrs. George J. Swenka and Mr. and Mrs. George V. Swenka and family, the fourth generation on this Iowa farm.



In spite of his spring shedding Double G Emulous 775 is an impressive bull and even more so when his offspring are seen.



The last of the 25 half-sisters, the foundation of the herd, and her 1979 calf. She is Blackcap of Clear Creek 131, the dam of Double G Emulous 775, now in her 18th year.

THE DOUBLE G WAY

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Champion Female at Ohio and the Reserve Junior and Reserve Grand Champion at Nebraska. More will be campaigned this show season. In April Summitterest offered 14 yearling sons of "George" in their production sale at their Fremont, Iowa, unit. Although young, they were well received. At Double G Farms all sales have been of yearlings and at private treaty.

The Double G herd is tightly bred. Other than the descendants of the original 25 half-sisters only four outside females have been added. Some of the young cattle show six crosses to "T N 70" in their tabulation. But there has been no loss in frame or quality—only a herd with cattle of remarkable uniformity, however, an out-cross sire is being tried. This spring calves are arriving by a son of Happyvale Stud from the Erdmann herd in South Dakota. Although these calves are young they look promising with some "stickouts" already showing.

As mentioned before the Swenka operation is not large. On the two adjoining farms the breeding age females total about 90 head on 320 acres. But it is a quality operation. Instead of corn, corn and soybean crop rotation with oats and legumes is practiced. There is 100 acres of pasture, plus 50 rented acres. In the late summer and fall the hay land is pastured and, later, the stalk fields. Corn acreage is held to 100 acres. With an intensive cattle operation the commercial fertilizer investment is minimal.

Yes, the Double G father-and-son operation is both practical and profitable. You don't need mere numbers if the quality is there. ☐

Select Champions At Knoxville Steer Show

Todd Cheek, 12, Benton, Tennessee, exhibited the Grand Champion Angus and Champion Steer Over All Breeds at the 279-head Knoxville Area Steer Show.

Reserve Grand Champion Angus Steer was shown by David Cawood, 13, of Cleveland.

Show judge was Bill Able, Kansas State University, Manhattan. ☐