



North, South, East or West Angus Work For You

Angus cattle are bred in all parts of the United States – from Alaska to Florida and from Maine to Hawaii. Few other breeds enjoy this wide acceptance. Virtually anywhere beef cattle are raised in the United States, Angus cattle are likely to be found.

Most other breeds are regional, or at least have vast gaps in their distribution pattern on the map. Each year at the American Angus Association annual meeting delegates from virtually every state in the union are on hand to do the Association's business.

Though we are truly a national breed, Angus production varies greatly from one region of the country to another. Management programs are very dissimilar from the hot, humid Gulf Coast to the Canadian border. The kind of cattle that thrive under one set of conditions are different in some respects from those that thrive elsewhere. Yet the Angus breed has the genetic diversity to meet these varying environmental challenges. At the same time, whether they are raised in the North, South, East or West, Angus are polled, black, fertile, disease resistant, present few management problems, and in the end produce the highest quality beef available in the United States, if not the world.

But Angus cattle are only the raw product. They are refined and improved, cared for, promoted and marketed by people – farmers and ranchers, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters. These people represent virtually a full range of occupations. Over the years American Angus Association members have included presidents, such as Dwight D. Eisenhower, and well-known entertainers, such as the late Fred McMurray, and today's hottest stars like Mel Gibson. But Association members are mostly business people, skilled laborers, school teachers, professionals, truck drivers, government employees, and students, as well as full time farmers and ranchers.

In this 1994 *Angus Journal* Herd Reference Edition titled "Postcards from Angus America," you will experience, through a sampling of articles, the variety that makes up the Angus business. The magazine is divided into sections, each highlighting a different area of the United

States. I haven't read every story in this issue, but from what I have seen, and what I have experienced in the some 25 years I have been with the American Angus Association, the experiences Association members share far outnumber the differences.

One common thread is that Angus junior activities either started or have held together many registered Angus herds in all parts of the United States. Although management systems may vary, the joy of being on hand to save a calf at birth that otherwise would have been lost, is universal. The same goes for working with the number one beef breed in the country, if not the world, and in belonging to an Association that many use as the standard against which to judge other breed associations.

But you will also enjoy exploring the many types of Angus breeders featured in this issue, and seeing how they live and breed cattle and do business in their part of the world. Certainly the breeder who runs a small herd in a farming community in Arkansas, is quite different from a family that makes their entire living from registered Angus cattle in the western range country. The Midwestern family that works full time off the farm and part time with their cattle faces different challenges than does the Midwestern family that derives virtually all its income from registered Angus and farming.

This special issue celebrates Angus diversity in all its richness even as it highlights many of the things that unite us in shared experiences and activities. It is an issue that you will likely come back to throughout the year for reference, information and entertainment.

Richard L. Spader

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