

Angus Breeders Attend Johannesburg World Forum

Bi-annual meeting in South Africa attracts cattlemen from more than seven nations to discuss common problems, determine policy on an international level and elect officers.

by Lloyd Miller, Senior Consultant
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When Angus people from all parts of the globe are brought together and given an opportunity to share knowledge and experience, progress is bound to result.

This happened in April when 204 people attended the World Aberdeenn-Angus Mini Forum, held this year in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Delegates to the conference, the third of its kind sponsored by the South African Aberdeen-Angus Society went home from the bi-annual meeting greatly impressed by and enriched with what they had learned from their hosts, their fellow cattlemen and industry leaders.

The conference was held in conjunction with the 68th Rand Show, and for the fifth time at the last six shows, Angus cattle won the coveted gold cup in interbreed competition.

The visitors, in addition to attending the Rand Show, were given tours of research institutes, bull testing stations, area farms and other local points of interest.

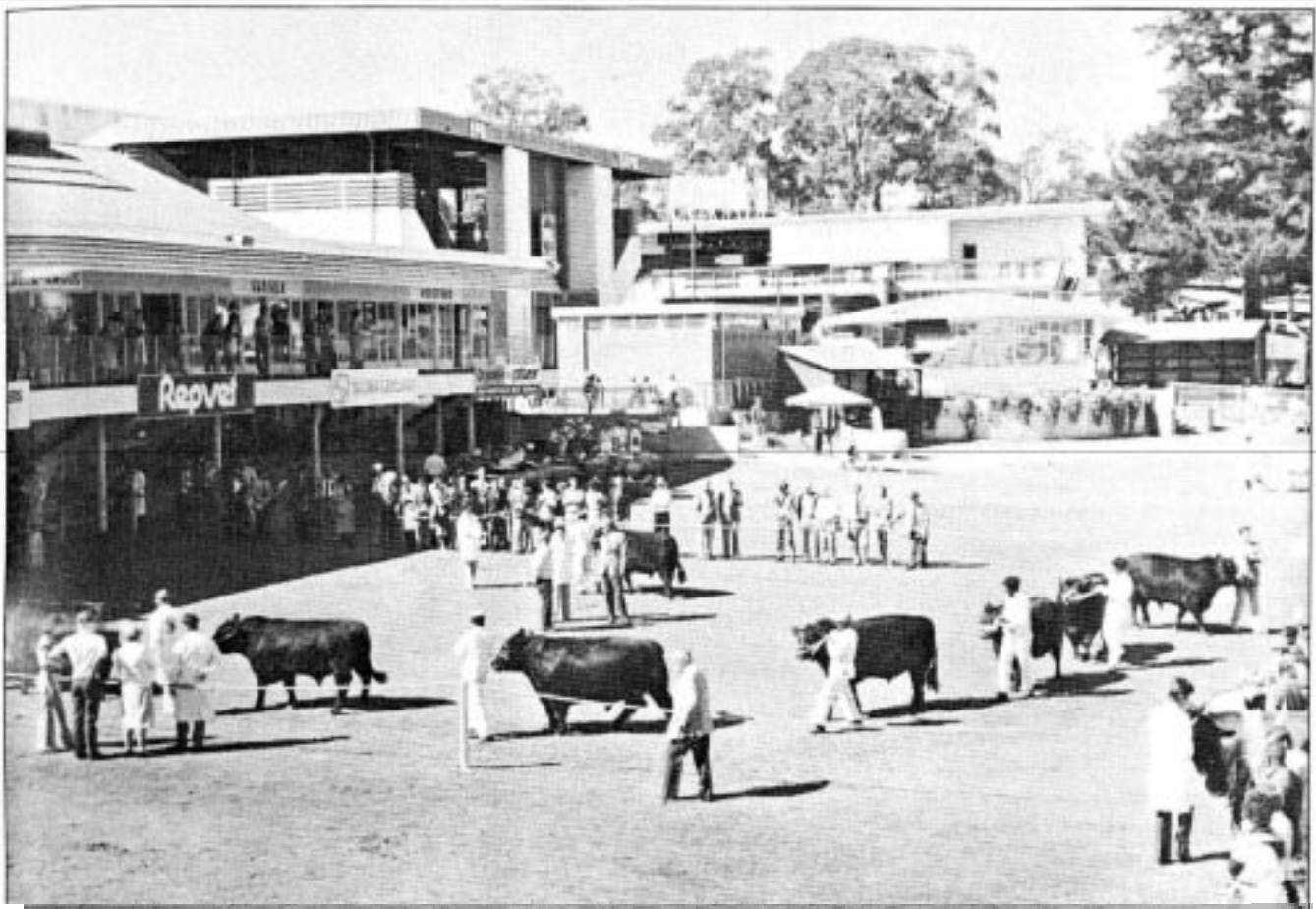
The 204 registrants included 63 from Argentina, 33 from New Zealand, 25 from the U.S., 20 from Australia, 14 from the United Kingdom, 6 from Rhodesia, 3 from Canada and several from various other parts of Africa.

New Officers

During the forum, Jack Campbell of the United Kingdom turned over the presidency of the World Angus Secretariat to Commander W.H. Barnard, chairman of the South African Aberdeen-Angus Society. Elected secretary was P.J. DuPlessis of the South African society.



Delegates to the World Angus Secretariat included (from left, seated Jack Gabble, United Kingdom; Frank Slezina, Canada; Carlos Guerrero, Argentina; Lloyd Miller and Dr. C.K. Allen, U.S.; W.H. Barm Rhodesia; Jack Campbell, United Kingdom; J.E. Horton Jr., U.S.; Stu Gordon, Australia; Alex Darling, New Zealand; and K.D.K. Akman, Rhodesia. Standing are P.J. DuPlessis, South Africa; Hugh Strother: United Kingdom; Lindsay John Stone, New Zealand; Struthers, Rhodesia; Ahead, United Kingdom; Morgan Muluaney, New Zealand; Jack Peaker, Canada; E. Fisher, Australia; R. Firpo, Argentina; Colli, Lyon Australia; A.B. de Kok, Rhodesia; and Peter Bennett, Rhodesia



Angus bulls being exhibited at the Rand Show in Johannesburg.

At each forum, an executive session is held to discuss problems and determine policy. This year's discussions centered around white markings, blood typing for non-traditional blood groups, genetic defects, an international reference sire program and a youth exchange program.

It was generally agreed that, for registered animals, no white markings should be allowed in front of the navel.

All delegates felt that blood typing for non-traditional groups should be continued, and delegates agreed that distribution of results among the secretarial membership would be beneficial.

C. Stuart Gordon of the Australian society presented a plan outlining the exchange of youth interested in working on farms and ranches in countries throughout the world. These exchange participants would receive acceptable wages and learn modern production techniques. J.E. Horton Jr. of the American Angus Assn. suggested that young people participating in the exchange program should be given some assistance to help cover their travel expenses.

Reference Sire Program

No action was taken on the formation of an international reference sire program. Jack Campbell of the United Kingdom suggested that it would be difficult to standardize world-wide criteria for measuring a good bull. He did, however, remind delegates that performance work and testing is being done throughout the world.

At the 1977 forum, the U.S. designed and presented to the secretariat a poster promoting Angus cattle. Member countries gave it world-wide distribution. The delegates

U.S. representatives in South Africa before their tour began.





J.L. Horton Jr. (left) president of the American Angus Assn., visits with Commander W.H. Barnard, chairman of the South African Aberdeen-Angus Society and new president of the World Angus Secretariat.

agreed that such distribution of promotional materials should continue.

During the forum, South African Minister of Agriculture H. Schoeman welcomed the delegates. He reported that his country had adopted a new livestock improvement act in 1977. "The day when performance is a requirement for registrations is very rapidly approaching," he pointed out. He added that both the black Angus and the red are registerable in South Africa and that the society encourages no discrimination.

Schoeman also reported that the price of corn in South Africa had just been increased by 25%, displeasing some cattlemen and consumers.

He said that only 77,000 farmers remain in South Africa and that they produce 40% of the food for the entire African continent. And, as in this country, inflation is having its effect upon production costs. The Minister of Agriculture said that inflation comes when people buy what they don't need at prices they can't afford with money they don't have to impress people they don't care for.



C. Kring of San Jose, Calif., climbs aboard an ostrich.

Historic Review

Keith D. Kirkman of Rhodesia reviewed both the history of Angus cattle in southern Africa and his own program of beef production. He said his Angus are producing more than 92% calf crop while his native Tuli cows are producing no more than 56%. He is crossbreeding in his commercial program.




One of the farms visited at Rosetta, Natal, was this one belonging to the Robert Armstrong family. They run 60 Angus cows as well as a Friesian dairy herd and a flock of 1,000 Corriedale ewes. Above are of their bulls by U.S. sires, the first two by Metro of Wye, the second two by Forum of Wye and the last by MSU Freestate.

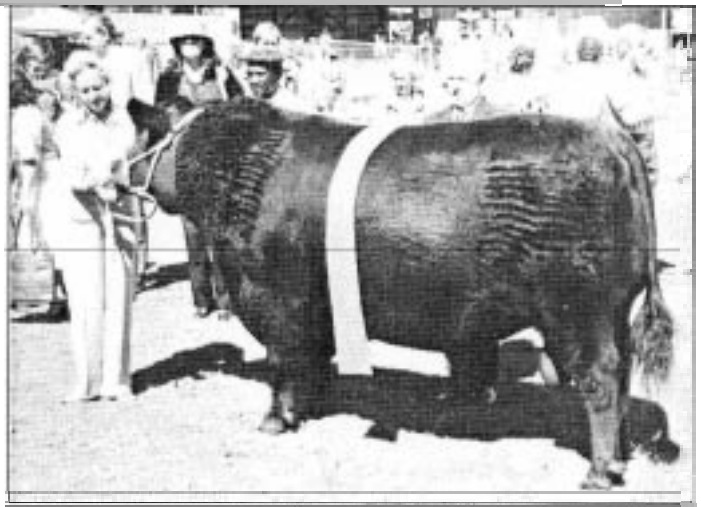
Dr. B.D.H. Van Niekerk, technical director, Voermol, discussed the use of agricultural and industrial by-products in more efficient beef production. He mentioned grinding, pelleting, alkali treatment (adding 4% sodium hydroxide) as well as spraying or dipping roughage with molasses and urea. He added that by-products of ethanol production may be used in the future.

Improvement in the quality of beef is a goal of most cattlemen today, and South Africans are no exception. Ralph Hirzel, technical advisor, South African Meat Board, commented that Angus in the U.S. are no longer the same as those in the United Kingdom. And he expressed the opinion that South Africans should concentrate on developing heavier muscled, larger animals. He commented favorably on the tendency of Angus to marble better with less outside fat.

Alex J. Darling, president of the New Zealand association, announced plans for the Fourth World Angus Forum to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, March 25-27, 1981.

For further information, contact Secretary Stan Esam, Box 941, Hastings, New Zealand.

Hopefully, Canada will hold the 1983 forum, which would coincide with the American Angus Assn.'s 100th anniversary. Activities in conjunction with both events would be a double incentive for Angus breeders to visit North America. 



Grand champion bull at the Rand Show, exhibited by Mr. G. Mrs. George Mackenzie, is pictured here with Mrs. Mackenzie at halter.



These females were seen at Barry Crookes' stud in Natal. Crookes' Red Angus herd was considered to be one of the best herds seen on the tour.



These Angus cows were part of the John Elliot herd seen by U.S. visitors during their tour of the Natal midlands. In addition to 75 Angus cows reviewed at the Elliot farm, the tour group also saw some 1,000 Corriedale sheep.