

## Rule changes to note

Since its introduction, the American Angus Association's Roll of Victory show recognition program has achieved industry-wide acceptance. Director of Activities Dean Hurlbut points out the Association Board of Directors has elected to make a couple modifications to the ROV program.

Beginning with the 1986-87 show season, show animals may collect points from only two super point shows and three recognized point shows. However, exhibitors are not restricted from continuing to show even though they have amassed their allowable points.

Rule changes passed by the board at its June, 1986 meeting also reinstate a senior yearling heifer class in the show classification.

*Roll of  
Victory*

*Structure takes its lumps...*

# Of Shows, showing, and ROV

Recently the American Angus Assn. sent out a questionnaire to show exhibitors for their reaction to the show ring of today. The poll was taken from exhibitors who had participated in the National Western, North American International Livestock Exposition, the Western National Angus Futurity, and the All-American Breeders Futurity during the past three years.

Response as of June 4, 1986, indicated a 26 percent return. Here are the questions posed, the percentages voting "yes" or "no", and a sampling of the comments made.

### Question 1... Number of shows?

Last year (1985), 138 exhibitors attended 851 shows for an average of six shows for each exhibitor reporting.

### Question 2... Why exhibit cattle?

"Promotion, advertisement, to keep abreast of the current trends, increase demand, increase value of sale cattle, sell semen, social and recreational values, satisfaction. ..."

### Question 3... Does the show ring have a place in the industry?

Of those returning the questionnaire, 97 percent think it does.

"Fantastic advertising tool, adds value to breeding program, adds value to some cattle, adds a level of excitement and competition. ..."

"It is a display case to commercial cattlemen. The show ring gives the best opportunity for visual com-

person. . . . New breeders are influenced by showing. Shows are a great place to meet potential customers. . . ."

**Question 4 . . . Influence exerted by premium money?**  
"Virtually none, but every little bit helps."

**Question 5 . . . Continue to show if premiums were discontinued at all but 15 major shows?**

Seventy-five percent would continue to show. Twelve percent would not; 13 percent undecided.

**Question 6 . . . Major problem with cattle that are being shown today?**

Forty-three percent felt the major problem with cattle that were being shown today is structural soundness. Height size—29 percent; breed character—seven percent; other problems—15 percent. Six percent expressed no problems with show cattle of today.

Structural correctness was mentioned as the number one problem, size was ranked second:

"Our show cattle have probably become impractical to be useful under commercial conditions. We need to select cattle in the show ring that are more in tune with what the commercial cattle industry needs. . . ."

"We are ruining the breed with size and cattle that are structurally incorrect. Today's show cattle . . . require two-three times more supplemental feed . . . cannot breed and calve at 24 months . . . will not breed back and produce on a 12-month basis . . . are being discounted from others in the feedlot . . . slow maturing . . . birth weights too large. These are all disadvantages to the breed. . . ."

"We must stop the race for size. The shows are going to breed us right out of the business unless somebody stops it!

"Keep politics out of the show ring!"

**Question 7 . . . Who should judge Angus shows?**

Thirty-two percent of those replying thought Angus breeders should. Seven percent would elect professors to judge while 16 percent preferred someone outside the breed. Twenty-eight percent felt it should be a mix of the above. Other suggestions (17 percent) included feedlot operators, processing/packers, commercial producers.

**Question 8 . . . Continue showing group classes?**

Sixty-seven percent said "yes," 24 percent said "no." Nine percent were undecided.

**Question 9 . . . Any demand to register steer calves for the registered steer program?**

Fifty-three percent have had such requests, and 47 percent have not.

**Question 10 . . . Would you consider providing the A.I. Service Certificate for steers at a reduced cost?**

Seventy seven would consider providing such at a reduced cost. Fourteen percent would not, and nine percent were undecided.

**Question 11 . . . How can participation in shows be increased in addition to the recently implemented Roll of Victory program?**

"Limit the number of ROV shows that points can be given. Get the politics out of the shows so the small breeder can compete. . . ."

"Get different judges. . . ."

"Add senior yearling heifer classes and senior champion divisions. . . ."

"Need new judges; new judges will look past the halter. . . ."

"Judges—keep the men in the ring judging cattle and by picking people who can and will sort cattle, not halters or pedigrees. . . ."

"Higher premiums; keep promoting the junior programs. Shorter durations at the shows. Set up a series of area point shows. . . ."

**Question 12 . . . What can the American Angus Assn. do to improve shows?**

"Need to put a cap or lid on frame size. Get a new judging system that encourages complete quality and not just the tallest. . . ."

"We need to define judging standards and breed character. . . ."

"Continue to provide professional support and staff personnel at as many shows as you can. . . ."

"The Association does an excellent job at all major shows . . . Keep working hard on junior programs; this is where it all starts. . . ."

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