

from the office

LEAD IN

By Richard Spader
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This month, with the Association's centennial celebration in St. Joseph, marks an exciting time in the Angus business. We certainly hope many of you make plans to attend the festivity and program at your national headquarters on Sept. 16 and 17.

As we ponder 100 years of breed association business, many thoughts come to mind about the significance of a century of business and service to a breed of cattle and its members.

For me, personally, two considerations are paramount.

First, we in the Angus business should be proud we are involved with a breed and an Association that has withstood the test of time. Today, with over 40 other breeds of cattle to compete with, the Angus breed has more to offer the commercial beef cattle industry than any other beef breed in the world. And that was true when the Association was founded in 1883. Without a doubt, the future of any breed in this country will depend upon its ability to offer genetics that will improve the beef industry and I doubt that all 40 or 50 other breeds we compete with today will be around 100 years from now.

Second, we, as an Association, have prospered because of grass roots member involvement in the policy and decision making. The American Angus Assn. in 1924 established a representative form of government that provides for a one man, one vote system. The system of election of delegates, who in turn elect directors who in turn set the Association's policy, is the

backbone of our strong organization. We can be proud of this system of government that provides input for policy making from the men and women who produce and market registered Angus cattle.

As an industry, 1983 is an important landmark year and the years ahead will offer even more challenges and opportunities for Angus breeders. It is important to be a leader in this industry. To maintain our leadership position we will need to develop programs that identify superior genetics in our breed and programs that promote the best interests of Angus cattle and Angus breeders. We are especially encouraged by the fact that figures to date show a 12 percent increase in adult Association members and an 18 percent increase in junior members for 1983 to date, a strong resurgence in Angus activity and interest.

This year of celebration is also a good time to look to the future as well as to remember the past. Part of the program in St. Joseph on Sept. 17 will consider the future as we discuss the needs of the beef cattle industry in the years ahead. In addition, the open committee meeting during our annual meeting in Louisville in November will address the issue of "The Angus Breed in the Next 100 Years."

So join us for the Centennial celebration in St. Joseph, Mo., on Sept. 16 and 17 and the annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 14 and help commemorate a great past and an exciting future. The welcome mat is out for you in both St. Joseph and Louisville.