



# Argentine Breeders Celebrate Centennial

by Dr. C.K. Allen

*Dr. C.K. Allen, executive vice president of the American Angus Assn., recently represented U.S. Angus breeders at Argentina's Centennial Celebration commemorating 100 years of Angus breeding in that country.*

The Aberdeen-Angus Society of Argentina (Corporacion Argentina de Aberdeen-Angus) organized and conducted a Centennial Celebration held in conjunction with the 52nd annual spring show and sale in Azul Aug. 21-24. The occasion? The 100th anniversary of the importation of Angus cattle from Scotland to Argentina.

The original imports included four bulls and three females brought to Argentina by the great-grandfather of the current president of the Argentina association, Carlos Guerrero.

## Evaluation—Live and Carcass

The Argentine association hosted an educational program during which both traditional and new types of steers at various slaughter weights were evaluated, first on the hoof and then in carcass. This program, the result of many hours of work, was done in cooperation with a local packer.

Argentina, whose beef cattle are grass-finished, has two slaughter markets—one domestic, the other export. Steers with a slaughter weight of about 900 lb. are preferred for domestic consumption, while export steers average 1,000 lb.

One traditional type steer on display was about 30 months old and was only slightly heavier but much fatter than a new type steer at comparable weight. And the new type animal was 10-12 months younger.

When carcasses from the 900-lb. range were compared, it was clear that, while the old type steer produced an acceptable carcass, the new type animal needed more feeding to optimize both his growth potential and his carcass value.

## Heavier Category

The next weight considered was approximately 1,000 lb., and in this category, the carcass from the old type steer was too fat, while a new type carcass had very desirable lean composition. One heavier steer of the new type was displayed to demonstrate that in Argentina these cattle can be marketed at either an early age for domestic use, at a later stage for export or even later, at around 1,100 lb., for domestic consumption without being excessively fat. And it is this flexibility that offers assurance against sudden short-term drops in the fat cattle market.

On the other hand, the importance of not increasing the size of Argentine cattle to the point of having reproduction problems was recognized. And considering Argentina's all-grass economy and all-grass management, it was concluded that the country's larger cattle are probably as large now as they need to be.

## Impressive Show and Sale

Both the show and sale were tremendous. Since all the show cattle (with exception of 25 herd sires on exhibit) were required to be offered for sale, the quality of the show was reflected in the outstanding prices received in the sale.

Friends of Argentine Angus breeders gathered from New Zealand, Australia, the U.S., Scotland and Canada for the Centennial

Celebration. The show was judged collectively by three men: Raul J. Bancalari, Argentina; John S. Barnett, Australia; and Frank Slezina, Southolm Farms, Canada.

One of the most interesting parts of the program was the exhibition of 25 herd bulls being used currently by some of the leading ranches in Argentina. At the conclusion of the show, these 25 mature bulls—most of which had been imported from the U.S.—were paraded, and they were very impressive.

## Broad Scope

The show, featuring many outstanding individuals, had a tremendously broad scope. It included cattle ready for slaughter as well as calves and yearlings that sold as feeders to be returned to ranges to be finished on grass. The major emphasis, however, was on breeding cattle. Commercial bred heifers and commercial cows with calves were included in the sale. During the show, pens of pure control heifers and bulls as well as individuals and pens of registered heifers and bulls were exhibited.

The pure control program, unique to Argentina, permits breeders to breed up commercial cattle to a higher level by using only registered Angus bulls for a minimum of five generations. Pure control cattle never become eligible for registration, but the better bulls are merchandised for commercial use. The pure control program's requirements include inspections and a limitation on the percentage of cattle that can be recorded.

## Pen Show

The pens of cattle were made up of three animals each. The grand champion pen of

pure control bulls was exhibited by Caralauquen; the reserve champion pen was shown by Leo Werthein. The grand champion pen of pure control heifers was shown by F.G. Cavanna, with reserve grand honors going to a pen of red Angus shown by Lizaso Jaurena.

In the registered heifer pen show, the grand champions were three March and April 1978 heifers by Black Marshall 482 shown by La Biznaga. The reserve grand champion pen stood second in class to the champion and included three April heifers, two sired by Ankonian Applause and one by Dakota Poundmaker 375. They were exhibited by Las Lilas. Chosen best female in the registered pen show was an October 1977 heifer sired by Willabar Eston 30 and entered by Carlos Guerrero.

#### **Bull Pens**

The grand champion pen of registered bulls, shown by Las Lilas, was made up of three October 1977 bulls, one by Franchester of Wye and two by Premier Great Northern B199. The reserve grand champions, all three March 1977 sons of Bon View Winton 1342, were shown by Jorge S. Rivolta. The best bull of the pen show, selected from the champion pen, was the October 1977 son of Franchester of Wye.

The class on which most attention was focused was the oldest class of bulls in the individual pen show. The first place bull, who later was named senior champion, was an October 1976 son of Blacklock McHenry 13Y shown by La Biznaga. Second place bull, who later became reserve senior champion, was a July 1976 son of Great Northern Superstar shown by Ed Meridiano. Third place and subsequent high selling bull was an August 1976 son of Blacklock McHenry 13Y out of a Freestate of Wye dam shown by La Danesa. The fourth place winner was a bull that had won the class in Palermo, a Sir Wms Can Am son out of a daughter of Camilla Chance shown by La Nicolasa.

#### **Grand Champion Bull**

The champion 2-year-old bull and show's grand champion bull, shown by La Paz and owned by Leo Werthein, was an October 1977 son of Black Revolution 317 out of a daughter of Ankonian Dynamo. The reserve 2-year-old was the reserve grand champion who also had stood second in class to the champion. He was an October 1977 son of Premier Great Northern B199 out of a daughter of Pharoah Emulous 230 shown by Las Lilas.

The junior champion bull was a son of Great Northern Superstar born March 1978 and shown by Tres Marias.

In the registered female halter show, the champion cow was an August 1976 daughter of Bon View Winton 1342 shown by La Biznaga. Reserve champion cow shown by Oro Negro was an April 1977 Sir Wms Excursion daughter out of a daughter of Diamond Legs Ranger. The champion heifer and grand champion female was a September 1977 daughter of Sir Wms Can

Am. The reserve champion heifer was reserve champion female, a March 1978 daughter of Blackman of Prosperity out of an Ed Rene Streamline Eston daughter.

#### **Strong Sale Average**

The sale was phenomenal, with 97 registered bulls averaging \$3,295, 35 registered females averaging \$4,234, 92 pure control bulls averaging \$1,730 and 30 pure control females averaging \$970. The top selling bull went for about \$14,290. He was an August 1976 son of Blacklock McHenry 13Y out of a Freestate of Wye daughter entered by La Danesa. The top

selling female, also the show's grand champion, was sold by San Bernardo for about \$21,430.

The grand champion pen of slaughter steers sold for approximately 65¢ a lb., and other properly conditioned market steers went from 62-65¢. One pen of steers was discounted about 10% for having an unacceptable amount of finish, although all the steers had been finished on pasture.

At this time the cattle market in Argentina is extremely good. There has been an increase in prices of approximately 40% in the last two months. 