



PRIDE RUNS DEEP AT SHAMROCK ANGUS FARM

George and June Crenshaw have never met a stranger. Pay a visit to Shamrock Angus Farms and not only will you receive a hearty welcome, but you'll walk away with a remarkable amount of Angus history.

George has many anecdotes and fond memories to share. After 50 years in the business of raising and selling purebred cattle, he's earned bragging rights.

The Kansas Angus Association helped the Crenshaws celebrate their golden anniversary in style August 15-16 at its state field day.

Shamrock Farms is located in the heart of the Flint Hills, southeast of Manhattan, in Waubesaunsee County. The cow herd features 75 registered Angus with both a spring and fall calving program. It's a family operation, with June, their children and now grandchildren actively involved

George's interest in beef cattle was sparked through a 4H project. He remembers going to the Kansas State Fair to see the beef judging contest. The champion steer was a big Shorthorn. The reserve champion was a slick, smooth Angus steer and seeing it started a love affair with the Angus breed.

George had shown steers for several years when his dad grew tired of going out each fall to look for show steer prospects. They decided the simple thing to do would be to start a registered Angus herd and raise their own steers. In 1935-36 the Crenshaws went to Sunbeam Farms at Miami, Okla., and purchased 20 head of registered Angus heifers. One of them was a cow named Ida the 13th of Sunbeam.

George's parents did business under the name of Angus Valley Farms. He remembers in the early '40s a Mr. Jay Walker, Tulsa, Okla., starting buying Angus females under the same name. The American Angus Association notified the Crenshaws that they could no longer register cattle using the Angus Valley Farms name. Although George's father had no trouble proving that he'd used it first, the ruling was still in Mr. Walker's favor. In disgust, George's father sold his Angus cattle and bought

Herefords, and a few years later, quit raising beef cattle all together.

George says his mother never lost her interest and love for Angus and it certainly didn't affect his opinion.

The Legend of Lazy Lad

One of George's favorite stories is of a show steer named Lazy Lad. In the late '30s and early '40s George was competitive with his steers on both the state and

the junior show at Denver and went on to be named reserve champion Angus steer. The steer that beat George in his class was slapped grand champion.

All first and second place steers from the junior show competed in Denver's open show the next day. Once again, Lazy Lad was named reserve champion Angus steer.

At this point, the National Western Stock Show brought in a different judge to select the overall grand champion. George and several hundred other people couldn't believe their eyes when the judge pulled Lazy Lad into the grand champion steer spot. This contradiction caused a ruling change that stands yet today.

In 1945 George settled down and married a neighbor girl, June Hunt, who shared his love of cattle. He became beef cattle herdsman at Kansas State College (now Kansas State University) in 1946 and was soon able to purchase a 280-acre farm southeast of Manhattan. This was the beginning of Shamrock Farms.

In 1950 George and June took over the management position at Black Post Ranch near Olathe, Kan. In the fall of that year they showed the International grand champion Angus female, the first and only by a Kansas exhibitor.

George and June moved back to Shamrock Farms in the spring of 1956 with their five kids and six cows. It soon grew to 150 cows and 1,600 acres.

George was elected to the Kansas Angus Association (KAA) board of directors in 1968 and served as president in 1972. June served as Kansas Angus Auxiliary president in 1971. Both enjoyed the hard work and challenges of their leadership roles. "The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer," was George's favorite motto during his tenure.

The Crenshaws were named Kansas Angus family of the year in 1971 and George was later made an honorary member of both the KAA and Kansas Junior Angus Association. AJ

Lazy Lad stood second in his class in



George and June Crenshaw of Shamrock Angus Farms were surrounded by Angus mementos and friends at the 1992 Kansas Angus Field Day.

national levels. In 1939 and 1940 he showed the reserve grand champion steer at the Kansas National 4-H Stock Show at the Forum in Wichita. In 1941 he exhibited a steer out of the Ida 13th of Sunbeam cow. The steer was named Lazy Lad and George felt it was his best steer ever. But at the Kansas National show it was the same story — reserve grand champion.

Standing reserve really didn't bother George, but when it came time to sell Lazy Lad and the steer only brought 19 cents, the hurting started. George battled with the sale management and refused to sell his steer. After a much heated debate, the management gave in.

After George arrived home from the show, he wrote to breeder Jim Hollinger and asked him if he could ride in the boxcar with his cattle and take Lazy Lad to the Chicago International. Jim said it would be all right, but recommended, instead, they go to the National Western Stock Show in Denver.