



# Angus on the

*At a time when our country was young,  
Many a brave soul set out on the Oregon Trail.  
They came from many nations, stout of heart,  
Never believing that they might fail.*

*They started from Missouri with high hopes,  
And wagons that were old or maybe new.  
Led on by the dream of a better life.  
A dream, they hoped would come true.*

*Mile after mile, day after day,  
They crossed the treeless plain.  
The hardships, the sameness that at times  
Caused even the brightest hopes to wane.*

*Through the mud of spring rains and  
summer's heat,  
They struggled onward still.  
They fought with Indians, snakes and disease,  
Until of this great American desert  
They had their fill.*

*Across the Kansas plain,  
The trail continued to test their will,  
As they entered the North Platte Valley,  
From the top of Windless Hill.*

*Some had come before, and many,  
Were they that would follow.  
Each marking the way with their graves.  
Along the trail, and at places like Ash Hollow.*

*They could start counting down the miles,  
As they passed by Chimney Rock.  
But, tho' the trail was growing shorter,  
They had to hasten,  
As they raced nature's clock.*

*And many were the treasures,  
Left on the prairies **drying grass**,  
As they struggled ever upward,  
And assaulted the high mountain pass.*

*But after many weeks of travel,  
They were rewarded for all their toil.  
When, at last, with joy and thanksgiving,  
Their feet finally stood on Oregon soil.*

*They had survived the test,  
That had broken and buried the frail.  
Take pride in your ancestors,  
For only the strong,  
**Survived the Oregon Trail***

*-Monte Reichenberg*



BRUCE WEETER PHOTOS

**T**he Wyoming Angus Association sponsored a tour Sept. 3, featuring seven of its top Angus operations. With many of these ranches located along or close to the famous Oregon Trail, the tour was appropriately named, "Angus on the Oregon Trail."

Approximately 100 people attended the tour. Visitors were treated to real Wyoming hospitality throughout the tour, topped off by an Angus beef pit barbecue and evening of fun and fellowship.



## **Wilkes 6-D Angus Ranch Hawk Springs, Wy.**

The first stop along the Oregon Trail was at this family-operated ranch owned by Don and Doris Wilkes and partners, Darrell and Trish Wilkes.

The Wilkes have been in the Angus business since 1954. Their cowherd traces back to a Wye base, with some of the nation's top-ranked sires. The Wilkes have always participated in the American Angus Association's herd improvement performance programs. They have never attempted to maximize performance in any single trait, but have endeavored to breed balanced performance cattle that are good investments for their customers.

All bulls are sold at private treaty as yearlings. The Wilkes also routinely sell a group of show heifer prospects each fall. Their "bread and butter," they stress, is a satisfied cattle breeder — registered or commercial.

"Everything we do in our breeding and management program is to serve our commercial bull customers," Don Wilkes

*Tour participants take a closer look at a herd of Angus cows at the Wilkes 6-D Angus Ranch.*

says. "Several have put their calves into the Certified Angus Beef program with pleasing results."



## **Guest Angus Hawk Springs, Wy.**

Not far down the trail was the second stop of the tour, Guest Angus Ranch. Owned by T.C. and Diana Guest, this Angus operation has been a member of the Angus Association for the past 31 years.

The Guests have constantly used A.I. sires to make strides with their registered herd. They currently run 70 cows, plus yearling heifers. One of their main goals in raising registered Angus is to produce uniformity and maternal influence.



## **GHY Angus Farm Veteran, Wy.**

The trail continued, leading to another top Angus operation owned by Glen and Janet Haas.

GHY cows are descendants of Rito 72, Rito 149 and QLC Hi Guy. These cows have calves at side sired by Brost Power Drive, Leachman Express, Basin Rainmaker and Rim 2100. GHY Angus Farm has a few young daughters of Rito 2100 in production with calves by Basin Rainmaker.



## **Booth's Cherry Creek Ranch Veteran, Wy.**

Visitors got a taste of a real working

# Oregon Trail



*By the end of the trail, everyone was ready for a barbecue featuring Wyoming Angus beef. Cattlemen, young and old alike, came to view the seven Angus operations.*

ranch at the the fourth stop along the trail. This cattle operation, which runs purebred Angus, as well as Charolais and crossbred Maine Anjou, is owned by Henry and Gordon Booth.

The Booths operate their ranch much like many of the commercial cow-calf operations that buy their cattle. Their working motto is: "Good cattle, good pastures, good facilities, good management and good records — but no frills, no pampering, and no excuses."

The Cherry Creek Angus herd began with six registered cows in the 1940s and has grown to nearly 400 mother cows in 1989. They have gone from selling a few bulls to neighbors and at consignment sales to managing their own production sales. Sale facilities were built and have continued to expand.

This past year, at the 25th sale, they merchandised 175 bulls and 75 females in a snappy four-hour period.

## Haas Farms Veteran, Wy.

Along the trail tour participants saw Wyoming's oldest Angus operation. Haas Farms, owned by Hubert, Howard, Bill and Dana Haas, along with Pat and Marilyn Herring, was established in 1935.

George Haas bought his first Angus bull that year to use on his Holstein milk cows. A few registered cows were purchased in 1937. The best replacement heifers were kept to build the nucleus of the herd.

Haas used several Sunbeam bulls in the 1950s and liked the offspring. The pedigree wouldn't wash, however, so in 1968 all the so-called "unclean" cows were put in the commercial herd. In recent years they have used Maine-Anjou bulls on descendants of these cows and have



produced crossbred bulls and heifers that have been well received at their sale.

In 1967 they purchased MQ President 101, an exceptionally large bull. He sired bulls that topped several consignment sales and provided daughters to start the regrowth of their registered herd.

Today their cowherd is basically Marshall bred with many of the younger cows Pine Drive daughters. Through the use of A.I., they have rebuilt the registered herd to 160 head.

Haas Farms has always conducted a rigid culling program. All selections are based on production records and eye appeal — stressing frame, soundness and sex characteristics.

The Haases say they are striving to produce the kind of cattle that will benefit the commercial cow-calf operator and the entire beef industry.

## Wye Tee Ranch Inc. Wheatland, Wy.

The trail grew shorter as visitors stopped to view the 100-cow Angus operation of Wilfred, Lois and Alan Meining. They have been breeding Angus cattle since 1950, and have been at their Wheatland location, a 3,500-acre diversified

ranch, since 1972.

Wilfred Meining purchased his first registered Angus heifers in 1950. They grew to a herd of approximately 100 females that were dispersed in the spring of 1967. A commercial herd, consisting of mostly Angus cows, was maintained until 1978 when commercial numbers were cut and the registered herd started again.

The Meinings try to merchandise 30 to 35 yearling bulls per year. Bulls are produced with the commercial rancher in mind. They are wintered on a growing ration consisting of alfalfa and grass hay, oats, plus a small amount of flaked corn.

Approximately 30 heifers are retained each year for replacements; the rest sold with the commercial calves.

Wye Tee Ranch has been enrolled in AHIR since 1982. The 1989 calf crop is sired by Rito 2100, Hoss, Bold Ruler, Sasquatch, Scotch Cap, GDAR Rainmaker 340, a Rainmaker son and two home grown bulls.

"We are raising registered Angus cattle because we believe the Angus cow is the Mother Cow Supreme," Alan Meining says. "The breed, as a whole, has more to offer and less problems than any other."

## M. R. Angus Ranch Wheatland Wy.

The end of the trail was at this 1,000-acre beef and crop operation owned by Juan and Joni Reyes.

The Reyes purchased their ranch, home to 100 registered Angus cows and 100 commercial Angus and Amerifax cows, in 1977.

Cattle at M.R. Angus Ranch are raised under practical conditions with the cow-calf producer in mind. Registered cows have calves at side by Equalizer, Rito 2100, Manhattan and Extraordinary. They sell approximately 50 yearling bulls each year to commercial cow-calf producers in Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and Texas.

In addition, they have added a custom feeding business for ranchers with steer calves and replacement heifers. The cattle are backgrounded on their native grass ranges. Heifers are fed to gain 1 1/2 pounds per day.

The Reyes raise their own feed, including alfalfa hay, grass hay and corn. They also raise a few acres of beans and sugar beets for cash crops. Juan is past president of the Wyoming Angus Association.

— Jerilyn Johnson

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