

# from the office

## LEAD IN

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Next month begins a year-long celebration that should bring feelings of pride in our past and enthusiasm for the future to nearly every member of the American Angus Assn. In January we commence the year-long commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Angus Assn.

The first meeting to consider publishing an American Aberdeen-Angus Herd Book was held in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 8, 1881. A second and much larger and more enthusiastic crowd met in Kansas City on Sept. 30, 1882, and the formal organization of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Assn. took place at Chicago on Nov. 21, 1883.

We will kick off our celebration at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, with the Centennial National Angus Show and the unique Centennial Angus Sale. There will be special centennial ceremonies, entertainment, an international Angus audience, and some of the best Angus cattle ever lead into the show ring and sale ring.

The second planned celebration is the Centennial Junior Angus Show, July 20 through 22 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. In September will be the big official centennial celebration at St. Joseph. We will have an open house at the American Angus Assn., a day-long educational conference and two nights of fun, good food and entertainment. The World Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat will also meet during this time and there will be a large delegation of foreign Angus breeders who will also be touring Angus herds throughout the country.

Finally, the centennial year will end with the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Angus Assn. in Louisville, Ky. It will be held almost exactly 100 years after the initial organizational meeting at which W.T. Holt was elected president and Charles Gudgell was elected secretary. We remember the great people who moved the American Angus Assn. from a fledgling breed association to the largest and most influential beef breed organization in the world.

As part of the centennial celebration we are asking each state or regional Angus association to honor the historic Angus herds

within their borders. The American Angus Assn. will supply, free of charge, beautiful certificates printed on parchment to be presented to the owners of these herds. Two classifications are being set up. "Historic" herd certificates will be given to those herds that have continuously produced registered cattle for 25 through 49 years. The designation of "centennial" Angus herd will go to those herds that have continuously produced registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more. All the owners of centennial Angus herds will be invited to St. Joseph in September to take part in a special recognition program.

Many states have already begun to identify these "historic" and "centennial" herds. If you qualify for either one, contact the secretary or president of your state association.



We also hope that every Angus organization in the country this year will sponsor their own centennial event, whether it be a special field day, show, sale or social gathering. The American Angus Assn. will have special posters and promotional material available to help you make it a special occasion. All you need to do is write and request it.

1983, it seems, will be a year when we begin to see further recovery of our national economy and the cattle business. It will be a fitting time to also joyously celebrate the 100th year of the founding of the organization that has played such a big part in our lives—the American Angus Assn. **AJ**