

FELLOWSHIP & FUN

In part II of our series on progressive Angus associations, we capture on film what it's like to be a member of the Lamoine Valley Angus Association.

This group of enthusiastic and active breeders represents 65 Angus farms and nearly 4,000 head of purebred cattle in an 18-county area of western Illinois. Started in 1946, it has evolved into one of the industry's most progressive regional Angus associations.

How does this association attract and maintain good, active members? "Fellowship," says Don Trimmer, American Angus Association regional manager. "Lamoine Valley is able to bring together people with similar interests and goals. They are good people who work well together."

Lamoine Valley offers something for everyone — young and old alike. "We try to make our members feel they are part of the group," says Dan Kiesewetter, 1991 president from Farmington. "We host field days, educational clinics, steakhouses, fund-raisers, shows and sales. Everyone pitches in."

Its annual meeting, which often draws more than 100 members, features guest speakers, an Angus beef dinner, socializing and cattle conversation. It has become famous for its after-dinner entertainment, as

well. A couple of years ago an act called, "Harold the Whistler," had the crowd laughing so hard, most got a belly ache. You'll have to ask a Lamoine Valley member to understand why.

Along with providing fellowship and fun, the Lamoine Valley Angus Association helps breeders promote their cattle to commercial cow-calf producers in western Illinois and surrounding states. It provides cooperative marketing and generates extra publicity and profits for breeders through association-sponsored sales and shows. It sponsors two sales each year— The Spotlight and Spring Classic—which have topped state sales more than once and attract a large number of buyers each year.

Most impressive are the leadership qualities this association builds in junior and adult members. Many have gone on to state and national officer roles.

The Lamoine Valley Angus Association has a long-standing tradition of good leaders. Most of all, they try to encourage young members to join and become involved. "I challenge any association to match Lamoine Valley," Trimmer says. "It just keeps getting better."

— Jerilyn Johnson



Lamoine Valley Angus Association's 1991 leaders are front row (l to r): George Spivey, Macomb; Lynn Miller, New Holland; Kevin Ring, Virginia, secretary-treasurer; Dan Kiesewetter, Farmington, president; Bob Johnson, New Windsor, vice president; Coder Hamilton, Macomb; and Bruce Engnell, Macomb. Directors in the back row (l to r): Fred Swanson, Trivoli; Denny Allaman, Monmouth; Bud Hobbs, Good Hope; Paul Vancil, Avon; Tim Brodie, Carthage; Ron Runner, Macomb; Stan Prox, Macomb; George Paul, Prairie City; and Ron Cramer, Macomb. (Photo by American Angus Association)



DON TRIMMER PHOTO

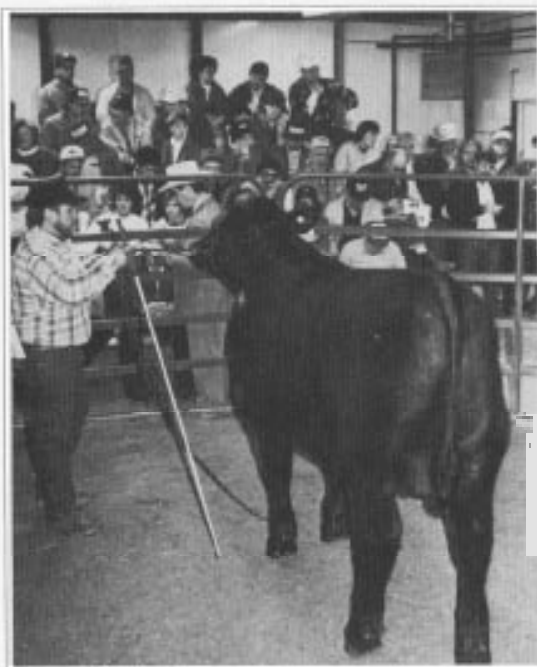
An active junior program keeps the Lamoine Valley Angus Association strong. Here's a sampling of future Angus breeders and industry leaders at a field day sponsored by Lamoine Valley.

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JERILYN JOHNSON PHOTO

(above) Coder Hamilton, a respected Angus breeder from Macomb, Ill., has been an active member of Lamoine Valley since its inception 45 years ago. Hamilton, who served as secretary for 21 years, still enjoys exhibiting his cattle in shows and sales and sharing stories of the good ol' days.



JERILYN JOHNSON PHOTO

(left) Bruce Kiesewetter, Farmington, Ill., leads out a bull consigned to the Lamoine Valley '91 Spring Classic Sale in Macomb, Ill. Bruce served on the National Junior Angus Association Board from 1983-85. "Lamoine Valley has good junior advisors," he says. "They let us run the show, but were always there to guide us through our mistakes."