

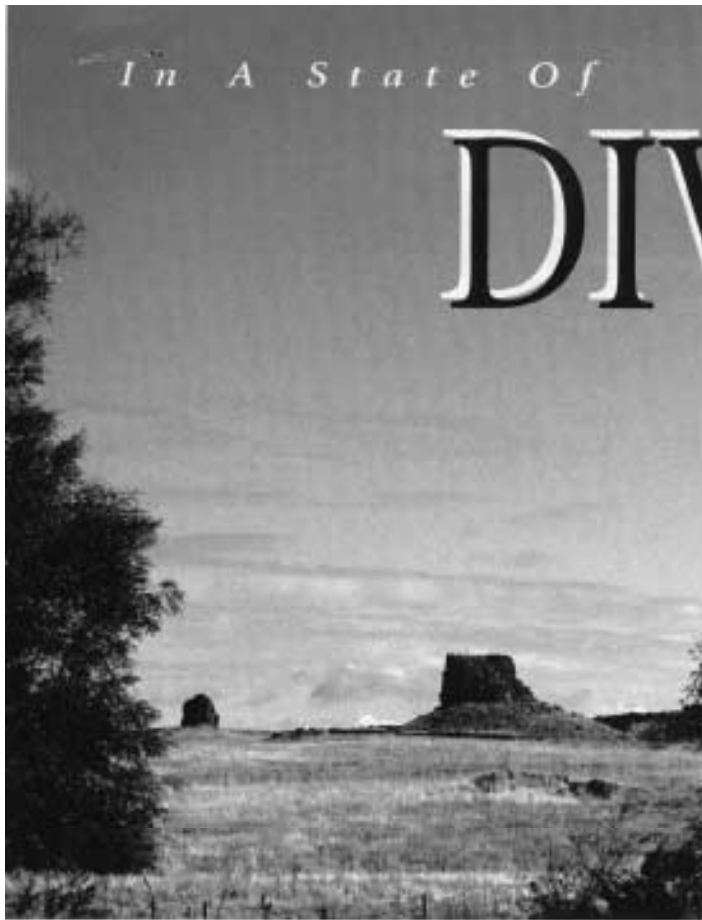
In A State Of

# DIVERSITY

BY SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL

Washington state served as the backdrop for the 1998 National Angus Conference (see page 58). Those who came early to attend the Washington Angus Tour Oct. 4-5 were in for a real treat. The Washington Angus Association and American Angus Association Regional Manager Rod Wesselman rolled out the red carpet to show off the state's agricultural diversity.

From desert to river canyons to mountain meadows, Washington state has it all. Tour participants got to see a good share of that diversity while traveling from Pullman to Hay to Ritzville, then on to Ellensburg, Yakima, Richland and Kennewick before heading back to Pullman. Along the way, participants saw orchards; vineyards; fields of wheat, peas, sweet corn, hay, hops and pumpkins; and some breathtaking views.



SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL PHOTOS

When NASA wanted to test its Mars rover on land that would most resemble the planet's surface, they came to Jake and Joan Harder's ranch, southeast of Ritzville. Located in the Channel Scablands of eastern Washington, the terrain of the ranch was scarred by the flood of a glacial melt.



Genetics took center stage at most of the tour stops as host ranchers and their guests displayed cattle to four busloads of visitors. Shown here are cattle at Pioneer Angus Ranch, Hay.



It takes a different piece of equipment to farm the monster hills that surround the area. Shown here is Dean Hurbut (outside), Association director of activities, and Graham Truscott, general manager of the Angus Society of Australia, climbed aboard to see the view.



After viewing the commercial operation's calving facilities, visitors were full of questions for host Joan Harder,



After enjoying a Certified Angus Beef™ lunch, cattlemen dispersed to view and look at the cattle on display at Rivzville Angus Ranch.



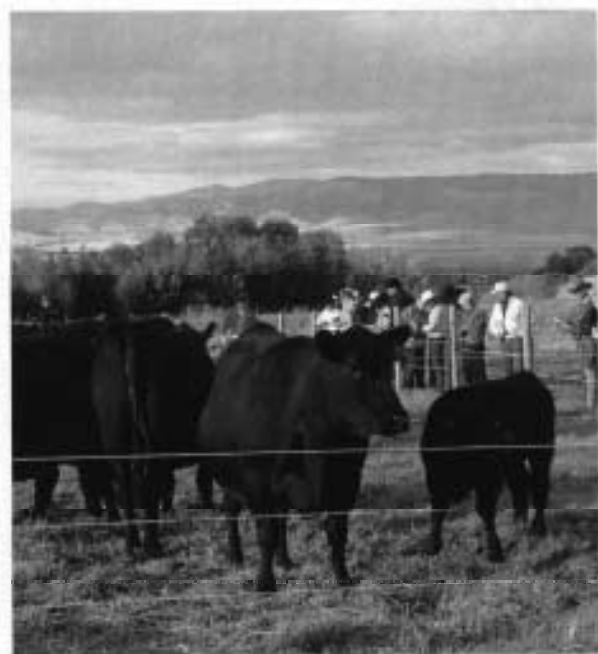
Thirty-two guest cattlemen brought cattle to display at the six host ranches, giving tour participants a broad view of the Angus genetics available in the state of Washington.



Host John Brown, Black Night Ranch, told visitors a little bit about the ranch before guiding people to pens of cattle on display.



The Northwest hospitality never let down as hosts provided fodder to give a hungry crew energy to view the cattle on display. At High Valley Ranch, they rolled out the chuckwagon.



Timber, shrub steppe rangelands and irrigated pasture made for a beautiful setting at High Valley Ranch, Ellensburg.



Roughly 400,000 tons of hay move through Anderson Group operations, 90% of which is bound for export. Compressed, roughly 52,000 pounds of hay will fit into an export container.



A third-generation family business staffed on a local farm in the Kittitas Valley, Anderson Hay & Grain was the first company to export hay to Japan. It's now a \$70 million/year business, explains Rodney Van Orman, who is involved in international sales to Japan, Taiwan and Korea.



Washington state offers a variety of ag industry. Angus breeders got a "taste" of that diversity at the Stalon Hills Winery, located on the gentle slopes at the northern tip of the Yakima Valley, Washington's premier wine region.



It was back to looking at cattle as the buses unload at Rainbun Angus, near Richland.



"Other than a profitable one, what's your ideal steer?" tour participants asked Keith Pascoe of Simplot Feeders, Pasco. His reply: "He's got to be pretty black.... I think overall the black cattle are still the very hardest to beat. They haven't made one yet that's any better."



Four busloads of cattlemen descended upon the Fred Meyer Store in Kennewick to see *Certified Angus Beef* product on display. The store sells, on average, 600 pounds of *Certified Angus Beef* product per week.



Making new acquaintances and visiting about cattle, management techniques, family and the future is an integral part of any Angus tour or meeting.



After the tour, the buses headed back to Pullman for the 1998 National Angus Conference. As part of the conference, participants toured the Washington State University meat lab for a lesson in uniformity.

