

A World View

Scenes from the World Angus Secretariat Technical Meeting and Tour.

Story & photos by John Crouch

The World Angus Secretariat was established in 1969. Its purpose is to periodically provide a forum to facilitate the sharing of information and technology between the various Angus societies and associations throughout the world.

It was decided that the Secretariat would meet every four years at a mutually agreed upon location. As technology has increased in the beef industry, members of the Secretariat agreed that a technical meeting, held at a midpoint between each World Angus Forum, would benefit member organizations.

The Dansk Aberdeen-Angus Forening (Danish Angus Association), led by

Chairman Soren Riis Vester and Meeting Chairman Peder Klausen, hosted the July 1, 2003, technical meeting in Copenhagen.

After the overnight flight and a bit of rest, American Angus Association President Steve Brooks and I, along with representatives of 11 other Angus societies from around the world, gathered in the Danish Agricultural Council conference center for a one-day meeting. After each organization presented its report, it became apparent that Angus cattle are enjoying prosperity in countries throughout the world (see "Up Front," page 29).

Following the deliberations, participants were invited to tour various farms, cultural centers and attractions in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The cattle in Scandinavia were

of large frame, were easy-fleshing and possessed excellent udders and eye appeal. American Angus influence could be documented in most of the herds we observed; however, due to governmental restrictions, most of the American germ plasm was imported from Canada.

The Scandinavian people were gracious and very accommodating, and the entire event was perfectly orchestrated. The group finished the tour with a renewed feeling that the Angus business worldwide is resting on a strong foundation.

For more scenes from the 2003 World Angus Secretariat Technical Meeting and Tour, visit www.angusinternational.com.



► Odense, Denmark, the childhood home of world-renowned fairy-tale author Hans Christian Andersen, was just one of the many stops on the tour.



► Peder Klausen, the World Angus Secretariat Technical Meeting chairman, explains meeting protocol. Representatives from Angus associations worldwide met from June 30 to July 8 to promote cooperation and information sharing.

► Meeting participants toured the Viborg Cathedral, Viborg, Denmark, Friday morning before visiting other Angus producers. From left, William Stroker, president of the Irish Angus Cattle Society Ltd.; Gerry Smyth, Ireland; and Bob Lane, president of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, enjoy the tour of the 12th-century cathedral—one of the largest granite churches in Scandinavia.



► The group concludes the day's events Friday, July 4, with a dinner at Hedebo Angus, Viborg, Denmark. Participants enjoyed Friland Angus steaks at the farm owned by Soren Riis Vester, president of Dansk Aberdeen-Angus Forening, and his wife, Elizabeth. Vester was one of the main organizers of the meeting and tour.

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► Rigmor and John Hansen of Ajshoj Angus, Logstrup, Denmark, receive a gift from American Angus Association President Steve Brooks. The group toured the Hansen's 40-head ranch near Viborg, Denmark, on Thursday.



► Cattle graze lush pastures at Davidstorp Angus, Lovestad, Sweden, a multi-specie farm owned by Tomas and Ann Persson. All herds on the tour use genetics in the form of imported cattle, embryos, and/or semen from Canada, the United States, and/or New Zealand.



► Mid-morning refreshments are provided during the tour stop Monday, July 7, at Sjovangens Angus, Rinkaby, Sweden — the oldest Angus herd in Scandanavia. Olle Fjølner is the seventh generation to farm Sjovangens, where embryo transfer has been a common practice since 1998.



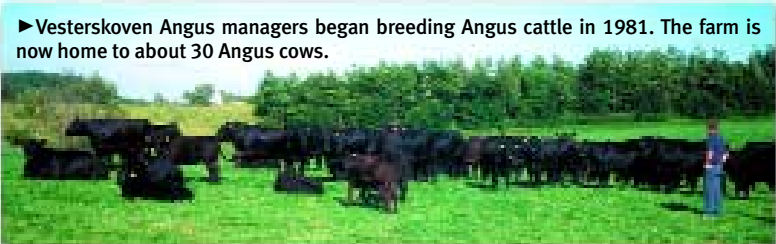
► Hay in Norway is commonly stored in plastic-covered round bales, as seen at Hovin Angus, Tyristrand. The tour group visited the 40-head operation on the seventh day of the tour.



► The grand champion Angus cow, owned by Vesterskoven Angus, competes in the interbreed competition at the Animal Show in Hjørring, Denmark.



► Soren Riis Vester, president of the Danish Angus Association, and Steve Brooks, president of the American Angus Association, are interviewed by representatives from the Danish Agricultural Network during the group's tour of Angus herds in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.



► Vesterskoven Angus managers began breeding Angus cattle in 1981. The farm is now home to about 30 Angus cows.



► **Right:** Tour participants enjoy a meal at the final stop of the Denmark tour, Vesterskoven Angus. Marianne Kreutzfeldt and Hans Henriksen, Tars, own the herd.