

Angus producers from across the country visit Indiana Angus herds.

Story by **Shelby Mettlen**, assistant editor; photos by **Shelby Mettlen & Leann Schleicher**

Before the official opening of the 2016 Angus Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., more than 200 producers and members of the American Angus Association attended this year's National Angus Tour. The tour, made possible by major sponsor Merck Animal Health, took participants on an adventure exploring Indiana agriculture. Tour participants enjoyed stops at Willer Timber Ridge Angus, Stewart Select Angus, the Hoosier Gym and Coverdale Angus.

Attendees boarded buses bound first for Willer Timber Ridge Angus at Greencastle. There, guests were treated to coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls by the Willer family before browsing pens of cattle on display from guest vendors.

Cattle were displayed at each of the three stops to showcase the area's prime Angus production. Guest vendors included GHG Angus, Wilson Cattle Co., Grubbs Angus, Horstman Cattle Co., Double R Bar Angus, Linz Heritage Angus, Les Craft Angus, Newman Angus, BCH, Bar-Water Angus, Carr Angus, Wilson Angus, Sherman Angus, Gerber Land & Cattle, and Sankey Angus.

The next stop for tour participants was Stewart Select Angus at Greensburg. After touring the cattle facilities, guests boarded buses for Stewart Select Seed, where lunch,

and tours of the seed production facilities and warehouses were provided.

Between farms, the tour took a break from cattle production to stop at the historic Hoosier Gym in Knightstown. Attendees listened to a brief presentation, then had the opportunity to explore the gym, take photos and shoot a few baskets.

Coverdale Angus in Frankton was the tour's final stop. The operation was presented with the American Angus Association's Historic Angus Herd Award. This honor is awarded to Angus producers or their immediate families who have been producing registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Making connections

Geordie and Julia Soutar of Dunlouiise Angus in Forfar, Scotland, were new to the National Angus Tour; however, they certainly are not strangers to the Angus business. Their herd includes only genetics from the original native Scottish Aberdeen-Angus herd.

The pair was making a bit of a vacation of their visit to the Angus Convention and National Angus Tour before road-tripping through the States and heading back to Scotland. Learn more about their herd in "Angus Highlands," beginning on page 126.

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► Angus enthusiasts' first stop on the 2016 National Angus Tour was Willer Timber Ridge Angus at Greencastle, Ind.

► **Below:** Ted Willer of Willer Timber Ridge Angus welcomes National Angus Tour participants to his farm. Willer runs the operation with his wife and son Josh.



► JD Rosman visits with attendees of the 2016 National Angus Tour in this video clip provided by Angus Media (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vifeb5s3yCk>). More than 220 cattlemen and women from across the globe visited farms and Indiana Angus Association members during the tour.



Explores Indiana Agriculture



Randy Mitteness of Minnesota said he decided to take advantage of the National Angus Tour as an opportunity to see agriculture across the United States and to connect with other producers.

“I think all of agriculture is pretty much the same,” Mitteness said. “Farmers in Indiana are farmers in Minnesota; we all grow crops and cattle. There are probably a few different ways of doing it, but for the most part, we’re all trying to raise the best food we can for the people of this country.”

Angus Ambassador Cassandra Garcia, Washington, also attended the tour, saying she enjoyed meeting new people and being part of the Angus family.

For short overviews of each farm, see “Hoosier Hospitality” in the June 2016 *Angus Journal* (pages 100-101). For more news from the Angus Convention — including summaries, speaker presentations, photos, videos and much more — visit the convention newsroom at www.angus.media/news/Angus-Convention. **AJ**



► **Above:** Stewart Select Angus, Greensburg, Ind., has been breeding quality Angus cattle since 1955.

► **Below:** Participants toured the facilities at Stewart Select Seed after a lunch sponsored by Merck Animal Health.



► **Above:** The National Angus Tour took a break from cattle production to explore the historic Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Ind.



►Geordie and Julia Soutar came all the way from Forfar, Scotland, to attend the tour and Convention. The Soutars operate Dunlouisie Angus, where their herd contains only genetics from the original Aberdeen-Angus cow families.

►Above: The tour wrapped up with Coverdale Angus in Frankton, Ind.



►Tour attendees listened to a brief presentation and even had the chance to shoot a few baskets at the Hoosier Gym.



►Coverdale Angus was presented with the Historic Angus Herd Award, honoring 50 years of continued production, during the last stop of the National Angus Tour.