

CAB Top Five Volume Feedlots Noted

Information-gathering leader ranked No. 1.

by Steve Suther

Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) created its Feedlot-Licensing Program (FLP) nearly six years ago with realistic goals. Licensed yards would never feed a majority of the cattle evaluated for the Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) brand. Rather, they would serve as a focal point, where high-quality Angus cattle could be channeled for increasingly specific management. Angus producers could depend on these feedlots to help build an Angus feeding database, while letting their calves realize their genetic potentials.

Still, volume is one measure of commitment to the brand. That's why CAB honors its Top Volume Award partners each year, based on CAB numbers. At the top of the list for 2004 is the Feedlot Partner of the Year among lots with capacities greater than 15,000 head. Pratt Feeders LLC, Pratt, Kan.,



managed by Jerry Bohn, had 1,703 CAB carcasses gleaned from its massive information-gathering project (see story on page 122).

Under common ownership is the fourth-place volume yard, Hays Feeders LLC, Hays, Kan., with just fewer than 1,000 head certified from June 2003 through May 2004. During that period, the feedlot managed by Bill Saba also had 134 "On-Target," or "30-0," cattle with 30% or more Prime or CAB acceptance and no discount animals.

Second in volume, with 1,334 certified carcasses, was last year's Feedlot Partner of the Year for lots with less than 15,000 head, Beller Feedlots, Lindsay, Neb. Beller recorded the highest percentage of Choice or higher grading cattle overall, at 76.8%, among the top 10 in volume. Managed by Terry Beller, it logged 173 more 30-0 cattle for the period,

eclipsing 500 cumulative head and winning "Bronze Status" in that program.

The third yard in volume, at 1,099 certified carcasses, was second overall for 2004 Partner of the Year (see story on page 124). Darnall Feedlot, Harrisburg, Neb., managed by Gary and Lane Darnall, had the second-highest Choice percentage in the top 10 volume yards and added 171 On-Target cattle for the period.

Hergert Feeding Co., Mitchell, Neb., rounds out the top five with 852 certified carcasses for the year. Managed by past Quality Assurance (QA) Officer of the Year Wayne Smith, the feedlot achieved such volume with the highest CAB-acceptance rate in the top 10, at 28%, and the lowest percentage of discount cattle in the top five. Hergert Feeding Co. led the FLP in 30-0 numbers for the year, adding 448 head.

