

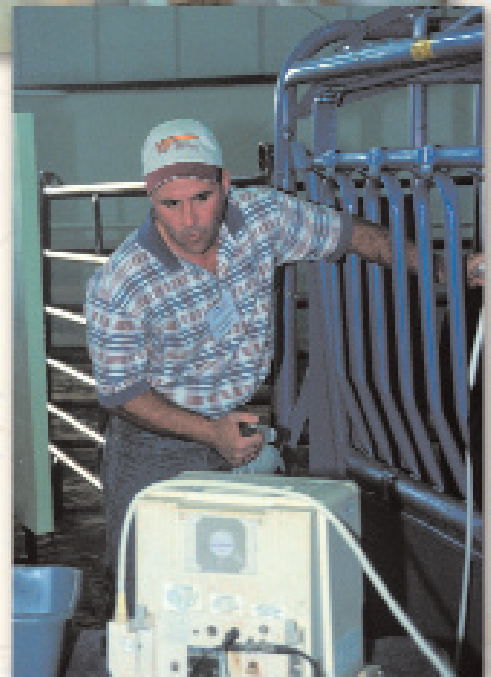
ANGUS IN THE OLD



► Approximately 350 participants of the 2004 National Angus Conference and Tour traveled to Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Livestock Teaching Arena in Blacksburg Wednesday afternoon. Angus tour-goers listened to a welcome by Mark McCann, head of the university's animal and poultry sciences department, before attending four educational workshops stationed throughout the arena.



► During the body condition scoring workshop, John Hall, Virginia Tech beef cattle specialist, demonstrated how to visually evaluate a cow's back, tailhead, pins, hooks, ribs and brisket to determine BCS. This measurement is needed to calculate mature size EPDs.



► **Above and right:** Andy Meadows, Springwood Livestock Management Services, showed audience members how to collect and process ultrasound carcass data during workshop sessions at Virginia Tech.

DOMINION

National Angus Conference and Tour participants visited Angus herds throughout the Virginia countryside.

Story & photos by **Crystal Albers**



► Bill Beal, Virginia Tech professor of animal and poultry sciences, explained proper techniques for using CIDR® inserts for estrus synchronization.



► Randall Hinshaw of Ashby Embryos discussed embryo transfer techniques and costs.



Inclement weather forecasts and the lingering effects of Hurricane Ivan couldn't keep approximately 350 Angus enthusiasts nationwide from visiting some leading herds throughout Virginia during the 2004 National Angus Conference and Tour Sept. 14-17.

At the conclusion of the one-day conference Wednesday afternoon, participants spent the following two days trekking across the rolling Virginia landscape and visiting nine tour stops, while learning about the state's diversified agricultural products and the historic value of the region. Stops along the way featured refreshments, meals, pens of guest cattle, and guest speakers, including Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman.

"The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed registry association in the world for a reason. You care about a quality product and the continuing Angus advance," Veneman said during the second tour stop Friday at Whitestone Farm near Aldie. "The American Angus Association has been a leader in what we like to refer to as consumer-driven agriculture. You have paid attention to your customers and are delivering to them products that they like and they want."

For some tour-goers, like Mike Costello, Pleasant Unity, Pa., and his mother, Naomi, the 2004 tour experience was a first. The pair manage Friendship Farm, a commercial cattle operation not far from the Virginia tour route, a factor that played a large part in their decision to attend.

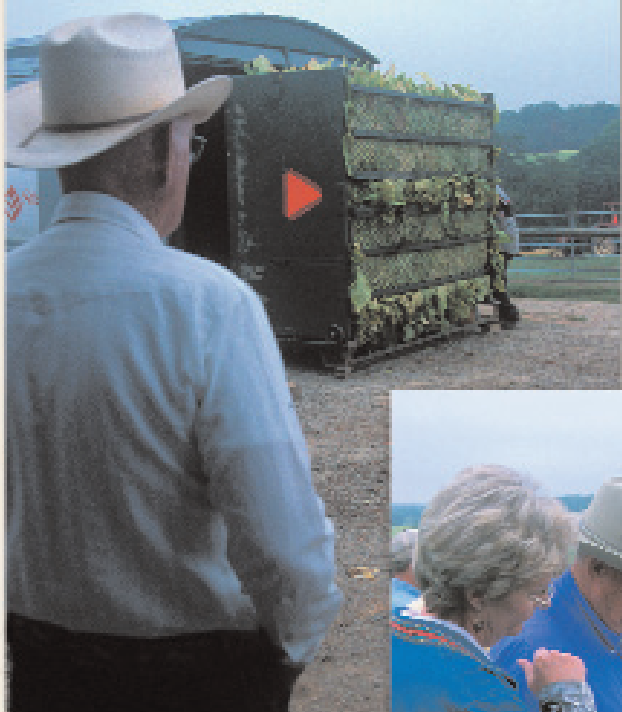
"We've bought cattle here before and are somewhat familiar with Virginia cattle," Mike said. "We heard about the places that were going to be on the tour and thought it would be fun to see the variety of farms."

A newcomer to the Angus business, Erica Sunshine, Floyd, Va., said she participated in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 92

Angus in the Old Dominion CONTINUED FROM PAGE 91

► At Maxey Farms, Chatham, the first stop Thursday morning, participants learned about raising flue-cured tobacco and the harvesting process. As the tobacco is harvested, it is put into rack dryers to cure at precise temperatures and moisture levels.

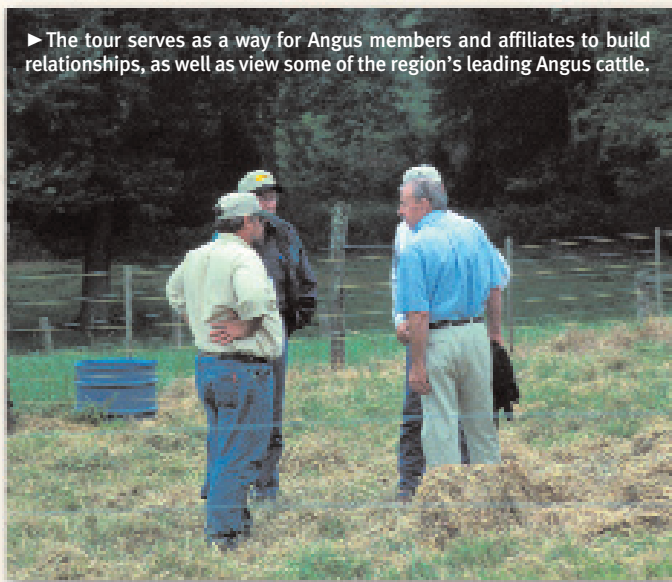


► Several guest herds were on display at Daltons. Cow-calf pairs displayed by TP Angus, Lawrenceville, were among popular attractions at the stop.

► **Right:** Participants examined pedigrees and EPD data available for cattle on display at Maxey Farms. In addition to a sampling of the Maxey herd, participants also viewed guest herds on display.



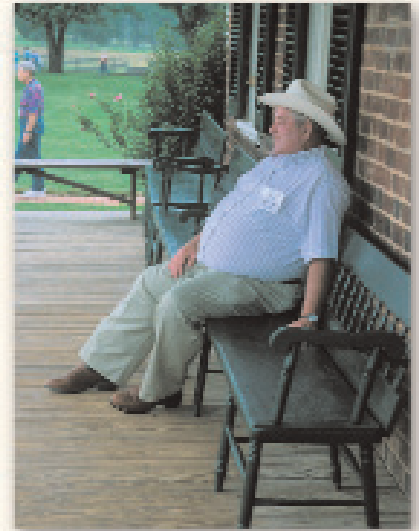
► The tour serves as a way for Angus members and affiliates to build relationships, as well as view some of the region's leading Angus cattle.



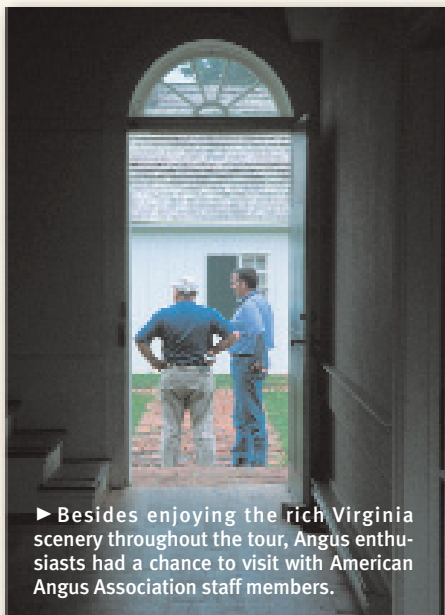
► Angus enthusiasts of all ages got to examine pens of bulls, heifers, cow-calf pairs and more at Daltons on the Sycamore near Gretna. Participants toured the grounds of the family operation and were treated to the operation's traditional sale meal featuring *Certified Angus Beef*®.



► A tour guide at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park explained the history of the park — an 1,800-acre site where Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant in 1865 during the Civil War. The park is a tribute to the 630,000 deaths and more than 1 million casualties suffered during the war.



► Participants had the chance to relive days gone by, relaxing among old country lanes and 19th-century buildings at the park.



► Besides enjoying the rich Virginia scenery throughout the tour, Angus enthusiasts had a chance to visit with American Angus Association staff members.



► Visitors to Knoll Crest Farm Inc., Red House, examined the family operation's bull offering before being welcomed by family members and Carlton Courter, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture. The family's herd, which consists of approximately 300 registered Angus cows, along with Gelbvieh and Hereford cattle, was on display alongside guest pens of cattle.



► Angus enthusiasts and guests traveled to each of the nine tour stops in a caravan of chartered buses. Named after different Civil War battle sites, each bus featured local agricultural representatives who shared facts and stories about each area. Between stops, passengers also enjoyed trivia games and videos provided by CAB.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 94

Angus in the Old Dominion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 93

the tour to learn more about the Angus breed and to meet other Association members.

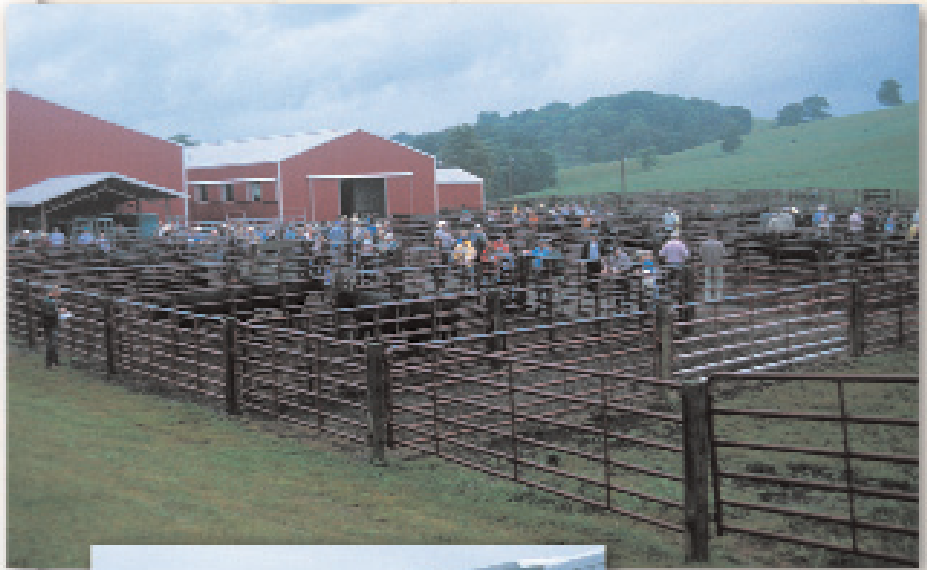
"The whole program was a great experience for me," she said. "I learned a lot, and I plan on doing it again."

Jack and Martha Sweeney, Noblesville, Ind., are repeat tour participants. Jack has been on the trip three times, and his wife joined him on the Virginia tour for her second outing. Both said the tour gives participants a unique glimpse into Angus operations you wouldn't normally experience just driving by.

"You get to see the country. You get to see the cattle, and you get to meet good people," Jack said.

North Carolina breeder T.W. Wall Jr. said the close proximity of the tour motivated him to participate in the event for the first time. "It was great. I wish I hadn't waited this long to go," he said.

Angus enthusiasts wanting to experience the next tour opportunity can participate in the 2005 National Angus Conference and Tour, scheduled to take place in the state of Missouri.



► **Above:** After herd manager Jeff Kaufman welcomed guests to Sugar Loaf Farms, Staunton, and explained the operation's management program, tour participants enjoyed morning snacks and made their way to the numerous pens of cattle nestled in the green hills of the Shenandoah Valley. Treats and/or meals were provided at all stops along the tour route.



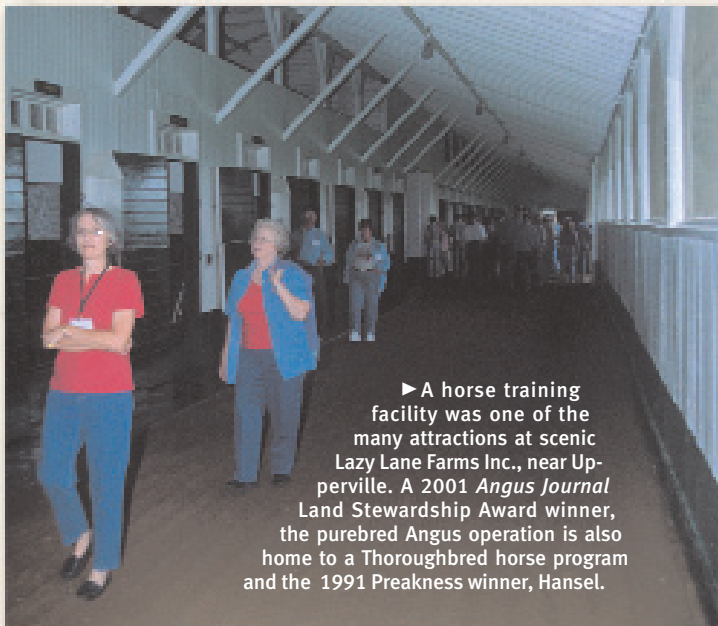
► **Left:** Friday's tour began with a stop at Sugar Loaf. Participants weathered a light rain to view the operation's herd, which includes 200 registered cows and 200 commercial cows.



► Mark Duffell, managing partner of Whitestone Farm, Aldie, presented Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman with a bronze bull figure in appreciation of her efforts toward the beef industry. Veneman, who was a featured speaker at the farm, addressed tour participants from the salering, saying, "One of the amazing things about your association is its history. You are a genuine American institution. But what is even more exciting is your future. ... You are a source of pride to the American beef industry."



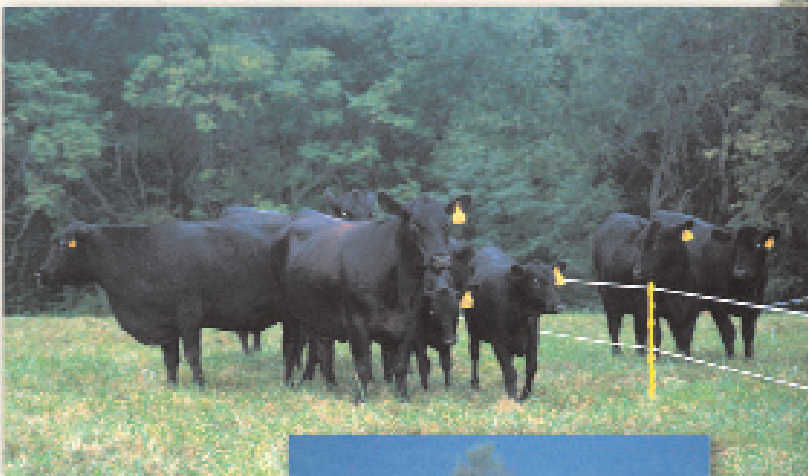
► Cattle were walked through the ring for the crowd gathered around the salering at Whitestone, which is home to 500 registered and 150 commercial Angus cows.



► A horse training facility was one of the many attractions at scenic Lazy Lane Farms Inc., near Up-
perville. A 2001 *Angus Journal* Land Stewardship Award winner, the purebred Angus operation is also home to a Thoroughbred horse program and the 1991 Preakness winner, Hansel.



► Richard McClung Jr., former American Angus Association director and managing partner at Wehrmann Angus, welcomed tour participants. McClung thanked the group for coming and explained some of the operation's selection strategies.



► **Above:** Tour participants viewed a sampling of Lazy Lane's 125-head cow herd before a rainstorm forced them back onto the buses.



► **Right:** Guest herds also were displayed at Friday's third tour stop — home to the historic Amandale Farm where former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower once purchased seedstock.



► Wehrmann hosted a meal featuring CAB in its round barn, used for production sales. Despite a full day of rain, and even a tornado sighting, tour participants ventured out to view cattle following the meal.

