



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Staying power

As we did the layout on the American Angus Association Pathfinder® Report (available online at www.angus.org) I asked Mary to sort out those that qualified as a Pathfinder Cow this year that were 10 years old or older. While it is true that once a cow reaches Pathfinder status, she will be a Pathfinder for life, to be printed in the report she has to meet the qualifications in that year.

Focus on females

The raw, totally unofficial count was 272. Of 9,083 cows listed in the 2011 Pathfinder Report, that's 3%.

These old girls didn't just live that long, they produced their first calf within 30 days of the herd's average age at first calving, they maintained a regular calving interval, they produced calves by registered Angus bulls and they raised a calf each year with an average weaning weight ratio within a contemporary group of at least 10 calves of 105 or above.

Think of the odds they beat: weather, disease, nutrition, bull/semen fertility, and higher growth rates of younger generations, not to mention culling practices with many seedstock herds automatically selling cows at 4 to 7 years of age and cows being culled due to defect policies.

Hats off to two individuals that made Pathfinder with 15 calves:

KAR Trendy Lady 585 (#12468209), owned by Kraus Angus Ranch of Milburn, Neb., is a February 1995 daughter of R&J

Cruz 109 and maternal granddaughter of AAA New Trend with an average weaning weight ratio of 111. Kraus Angus had 27 Pathfinder Cows listed in this year's report.

Miss D Dartts Emulation 7 (#12191259), owned by Dartt Angus of Wall, S.D., is a February 1994 daughter of Dartts Emulation 1 and maternal granddaughter of Dakota Poundmaker 149. She had an average weaning ratio of 107. Dartt Angus had 12 Pathfinder Cows listed in the report.

Carmer Farm of Nevada, Iowa; Scott Davis of Tioga, N.D.; MR Angus of Wheatland, Wyo.; Daniel or Casey Maher of Morristown, S.D.; Jackie Miller of Craig, Mo.; and Wardens Farm of Council Bluffs, Iowa, each claim a cow qualifying as a Pathfinder with 14 calves. Average weaning weight ratios range from 105 to 123.

I don't know what they look like, what they've been fed along the way or what their competition was, but their performance record shows they did their job. And this month, as our issue puts the focus on females, they deserve a little spotlight.

Mathew

In this day and age it is comforting to hear of young, talented individuals returning to the production agriculture sector. They are needed there as sorely as we need large-animal veterinarians. Not so comforting is when that person comes from your own staff.

In late February, Mathew Elliott shared that his family wanted him to join the family farm full-time, something he told us was his eventual goal when he joined our ranks in January 2007 as an assistant editor. So, as we close this issue, Mathew will return to the home farm in Hiawatha, Kan., where he will take the lead in expanding his family's beef operation and helping with the corn and soybean production.

He started out right with the purchase of two registered Angus bulls and the plan to use the AngusSource® program.

Two positions open at Angus

With Kelli Armbruster leaving the Angus Foundation for North Dakota, that means we have two communications-related positions open at Angus. We'll be hiring an associate or senior associate editor with five to seven years of experience to join our team in Saint Joseph, Mo. Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins is searching for a marketing and public relations assistant.

To help get the word out, we created an Angus Job Openings page within the API Virtual Library. You can find job descriptions for both positions by drilling down from www.api-virtuallibrary.com to Angus Online | Angus Job Openings, or go directly to www.api-virtuallibrary.com/AngusJobOpenings.htm.

E-MAIL: shermel@angusjournal.com
www.api-virtuallibrary.com

ANGUS PRODUCTIONS INC.

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; 1-800-821-5478; fax: 816-233-6575; office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central) home page: www.angusjournal.com

Staff are listed by name, phone extension and e-mail prefix. All direct phone numbers are "816-383-5..."; all e-mail addresses are "...@angusjournal.com"

General manager — Terry Cotton, 214, tcotton

Editorial Department — Editor, Shauna Rose Hermel, 270, shermel ■ Assistant editors, Mathew Elliott, 277, mellott; & Linda Robbins, 245, lrobbins ■ Artists, Mary Black & Craig Simmons

Field editors — Barb Baylor Anderson, 305 Valley View Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, 618-656-0870, anderagcom@sbcglobal.net ■ Kindra Gordon, 11734 Weisman Rd., Whitewood, SD 57793, 605-722-7699, kindras@gordonresources.com ■ Becky Mills, Rt. 1, Box 414, Cuthbert, GA 31740, 229-732-6748, beckymills81@yahoo.com ■ Troy Smith, 44431 Sargent River Rd., Sargent, NE 68874, 308-527-3483, wordsmith@nctc.net

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