

Meet Us In Montana, *continued from page 7*

Tour Stop: Leachman Angus Ranch, Toston

Eric, Marlo, Abby and Wade Leachman

Leachman Angus Ranch has moved to a new location in the Crow Creek Valley near Townsend, Mont. Les and Ruth, along with Jay and Cheryl, started the ranch near Bozeman in 1972 after the family sold their interests in Ankony Angus. In 2004, Jay decided to disperse and retire from the business. Eric and Marlo retained cattle from the original Leachman Angus herd.

Today, the ranch is operated by the third and fourth generations — Eric; his wife, Marlo; and their children, Abby and Wade. Leachman Angus Ranch currently manages about 150 mature cows along with 50 replacement heifers. The ranch is still growing in cow numbers by retaining more heifers and through ET.

The Leachmans start calving 2-year-olds around Jan. 20, with the mature cows following Feb 1. The cows are wintered on alfalfa-grass hay and barley straw. The Leachmans employ an extensive AI program by synchronizing the yearling heifers and breeding the cows off of natural heats for about 21-25 days. Heifer calves and yearling heifers go to a pasture lease in the hills near Three Forks, Mont. Bull calves stay home on irrigated pasture through the summer months. The calves are weaned Oct. 1, with the bull calves remaining in a feedlot environment and heifer calves turned back on pasture until Jan. 1.

Bulls are sold private treaty beginning Feb. 1. The Leachmans currently sell 50 bulls with hopes to sell 75-100 within the next couple of years. Females are sold private treaty or consigned to the Montana Supreme Sale in Columbus, Mont., in December.

The cattle you will see on the tour are a cross section of the herd and represent many years of selection and culling for traits that will make a positive contribution to the beef industry.

“We feel fortunate to being a part of this great breed of cattle for over 30 years,” say Eric and Marlo.

Guests (see www.nationalangusconference.com for ranch overviews)

- *Thousand Hills Angus of Toston*
- *GaLor Angus of Townsend*
- *Reyher Embryonics of Belgrade*

Tour Stop: Sitz Angus Ranch, Harrison

Bob Sitz, Jim and Tammi Sitz

Sitz Angus Ranch of Harrison and Dillon, Mont., is a registered and commercial Angus operation that has a tremendous history and tradition in the Angus breed. 2010

marks the 87th continuous year of producing registered Angus cattle. The herd was started in 1923 by Will and Frieda Sitz in Nebraska and was later relocated to Harrison, Mont., in 1959 by Bob Sr. and Donna Sitz. They continued the development and tradition of the “Sitz Program.” In 1997, the Sitz operation expanded its base with the addition of the Dillon ranch. Sitz Angus is owned and managed by Bob and Jim and Tammi Sitz.

Sitz Angus has become recognized as one of the top sources of Angus genetics. With well over 1,400 registrations, it is consistently among the top in registrations recorded annually at the American Angus Association.

The Sitz program markets more than 900 bulls with two sales: the December sale at the Harrison location, which markets coming 2-year-old bulls and commercial bred heifers, and a spring sale in Dillon, which features yearling bulls and fall yearling bulls.

Throughout its history, a major emphasis of the Sitz program has been “the mother cow.” Sitz females and their progeny have influenced many operations across the United States and some foreign countries. Every tool available has been utilized to enhance the productivity and quality of the Sitz female, which is considered the basis of the program. The Sitz philosophy is that of providing Angus seedstock that will enhance their customers’ programs as well as their own.

AI, ET, genetic trait testing, ultrasound, DNA, genomic-enhanced EPDs and pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP)-testing are just a few of the management tools utilized to provide customers with up-to-date information. The success of these combined management practices is evidenced by the results of the annual Sitz bull sales. Sitz sires can be found in nearly every semen sale book and AI stud across America.

The Sitz families are active in community and industry organizations. Both Bob and Jim have held positions on local, county and state organizations. Jim is serving on the Board of Directors for the American Angus Association, while Bob serves on the board of the Montana Angus Association.



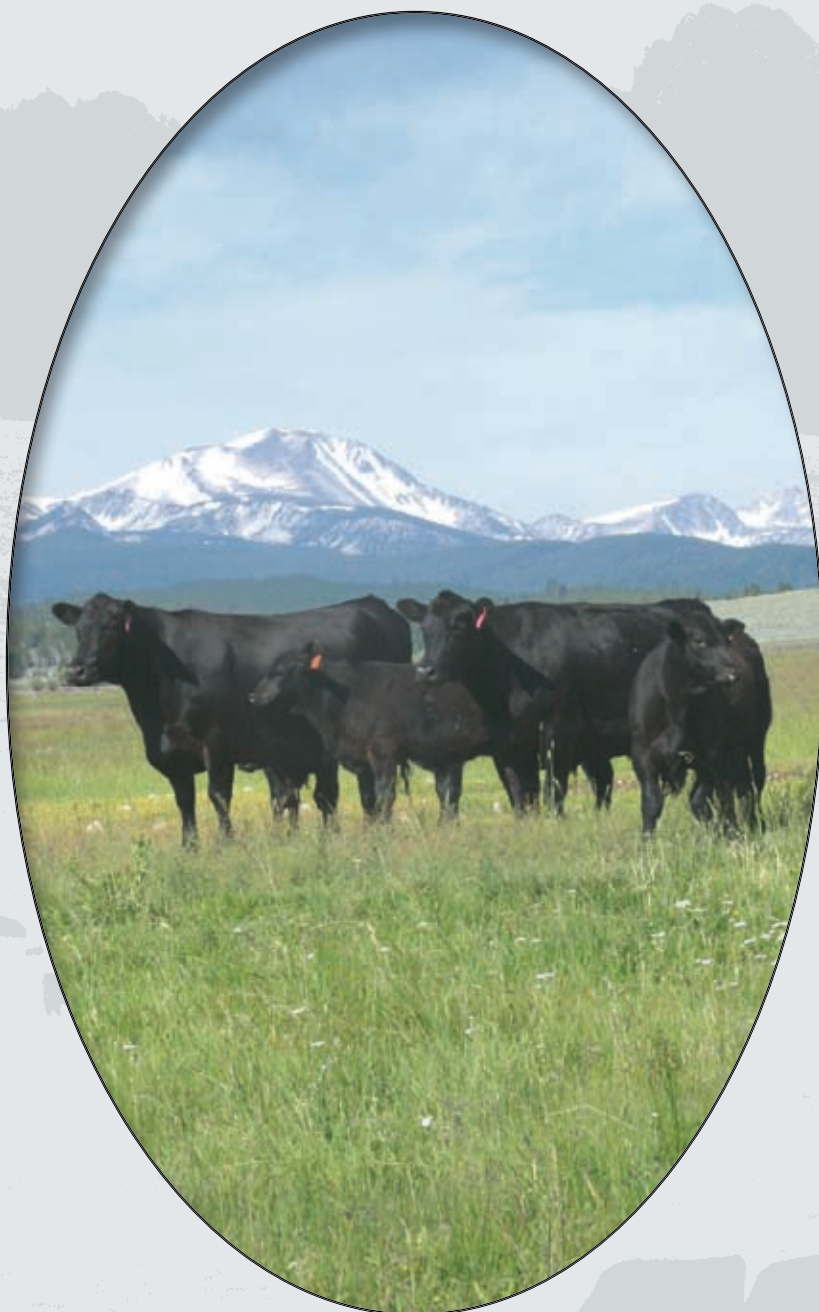
Meet in Montana

2010 National Angus Conference & Tour
September 15-17 • Bozeman, MT

www.NationalAngusConference.com



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General Information

2010 National Angus Conference & Tour

Bozeman, Mont.

Registration

The early registration deadline for the National Angus Conference & Tour is Aug. 13. Cost of registration is \$125 before Aug. 13 or \$150 afterward. Registration includes the conference program, meals and transportation for the tour.

reached at 406-587-5261. Ask for the Angus block 804948. Other hotels with Angus room blocks near the headquarters include the Holiday Inn, 406-587-4561, and the Days Inn & Suites, 406-587-5251.

For more information

Contact Shelia Stannard at ssannard@angus.org or Monica Jordan at mjordan@angus.org, or call 816-383-5100 for more information or to register.

Hotel information

Attendees should make their own hotel reservations. The GranTree Inn is the headquarters, and can be

Tuesday, September 14

- 10 a.m. South Montana Angus Association Golf Tournament, Bridger Creek Golf Course
- 2 p.m. Registration opens, GranTree Inn
- 5:30 p.m. Registration closes, GranTree Inn
- 6 p.m. Welcome Reception, GranTree Inn

Wednesday, September 15

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7 a.m. Registration opens, GranTree Inn
- 8 a.m. National Angus Conference begins, GranTree Inn
 - Welcome, *Bill Davis, President, American Angus Association*
 - Bridging the Gap from Producer to Consumer, *Tracey Erickson, Vice President, Certified Angus Beef LLC*
 - Leadership in the Kitchen and Dining Room, *Chef John Doherty, Wolfpak Hospitality*
 - Break
 - Why Animal Industries are so Vulnerable to Today's Instantaneous Communications, *Charlie Powell, Washington State University*
 - Sustained Nutrition and Lifetime Performance, *Lee Dickerson, Purina Mills LLC*
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
 - State of the Beef Industry with a Focus on the Opportunities that Lie Ahead, *Randy Blach, CEO, Cattle-Fax*
 - Conference Wrap-up, *Bryce Schumann, CEO, American Angus Association*
- 3:15 p.m. Load buses
 - Depart for KG Ranch for dinner and kick off to National Angus Tour KG Ranch, Three Forks
 - Guests:** *Heide Ranch of Boulder, Timber Line Ranch of Belgrade, Alberda Angus of Bozeman, Circle L Angus of Wise River*
- 7 p.m. Load buses
 - Depart KG Ranch
- 8:15 p.m. Arrive at GranTree Inn, Bozeman

Thursday, September 16, National Angus Tour, Day 1

- 7:15 a.m. Load buses at GranTree Inn
 - Hyline Angus Ranch, Bozeman — Breakfast
 - Armstrong Angus Ranch, Cardwell
 - Wheeler Mountain Ranch, Whitehall — Lunch
 - Guest:** *South Boulder Angus of Cardwell*
 - Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall
 - Van Dyke Angus Ranch, Manhattan — Dinner
 - Guests:** *Yadon Angus Ranch of Manhattan, Kimm Angus of Manhattan, PAPA Livestock of Belgrade, Westra Angus of Manhattan*
- 7 p.m. Arrive at GranTree Inn, Bozeman

Friday, September 16, National Angus Tour, Day 2

- 6:45 a.m. Load buses at GranTree Inn, Bozeman
 - Montana State University Bioscience Lab, Bozeman — Breakfast
 - Leachman Angus Ranch, Toston
 - Guests:** *Thousand Hills Angus of Toston, GaLor Angus of Townsend, Reyher Embryonics of Belgrade*
 - Sitz Angus Ranch, Harrison — Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Buses depart for either GranTree Inn or KG Ranch (*for South Montana Angus Association Elite Female Sale*)
- 3:30 p.m. Buses arrive at GranTree Inn for afternoon departures
- 4 p.m. Sale at KG Ranch
- 6 p.m. Buses depart after sale
- 7 p.m. Buses arrive at GranTree Inn following sale

2010 National Angus Conference & Tour

sponsored by Purina Mills and Alpharma Animal Health

Registration is \$125 if paid on or before the early registration deadline of Aug. 13; late registration is \$150 after Aug. 13

No. of people	×	Cost before Aug. 13	=	Total enclosed
_____	×	\$125	=	\$ _____

Refunds will be given at 50% only if requested prior to Aug. 13. After Aug. 13, no refunds will be granted.

Check enclosed. Make checks payable to the American Angus Association.

Visa MasterCard Discover

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name badge information (please print)

1. Name _____

2. Name _____

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Send registration confirmation to:

Name _____

Member Code _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send this completed form and payment to:
American Angus Association
 Attn: **Monica Jordan**
 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997
 Fax: 816-233-9703

An Invitation from CEO Bryce Schumann

On behalf of the American Angus Association, I want to invite you to the 2010 National Angus Conference & Tour, located in the Big Sky Country of Montana. We are excited to partner with our hosts, the South Montana Angus Association, on this year's tour. We have an intriguing set of speakers for you this year, ranging from a chef to an economist. You will definitely want to mark your calendar for Sept. 15-17 to "Meet in Montana."

Angus heritage and leadership run deep in Montana. Montana Angus breeders were leaders in the performance movement several decades ago when AHIR® was in its infancy. Today Montana still leads in the volume of birth, weaning and yearling weights submitted annually. Montanans also lead in the total number of registered Angus, and last fiscal year accounted for slightly more than 10% of total registrations in the breed.

We are proud once again to partner with Purina Mills and Alpharma Animal Health on this year's event. Purina is a longtime partner of ours on this great event, and I hope you take time to visit with their staff and ours.

As you might have noticed, we didn't have this event last year due to the World Angus Forum being in Canada. We've had two years to prepare for this year's conference and tour, and it's definitely one you won't want to miss. Register today, and I look forward to seeing you all in Bozeman this fall.



Bryce Schumann
Chief Executive Officer
American Angus Association

A Welcome From Our Sponsor

On behalf of nearly 4,600 Purina dealers and Land O'Lakes cooperatives across the United States, I would like to welcome you to the 2010 National Angus Conference & Tour.

Purina and our strong corporate partner Alpharma Animal Health are pleased to be the major sponsors for this conference. And we appreciate the great working relationship that Land O'Lakes Purina Feed continues to have with the American Angus Association and your excellent staff. We believe that the American Angus Association is a leader in developing programs and support mechanisms to help improve the competitive advantage of its breeders. Again this year your staff has assembled an excellent agenda that should make this conference a very wise investment of your time.

We share in your vision for the future of the cattle industry. With unsurpassed research and technical support, we lead the industry in providing America's cattlemen with innovative products and programs to help you make more efficient use of your resources of land, labor, capital and management. This is accomplished through Purina's exclusive Intake Modifying Technology® found in our Accuration® brand products and our new Wind and Rain® cattle minerals re-designed for more consistent intake. We are confident that selecting these programs, and sound advice from your Land O'Lakes Purina Feed representative, can help you achieve the performance and financial goals for your operation.

Purina is happy to share our sponsorship for this progressive event with one of our key corporate partners, Alpharma Animal Health, makers of such great products as Aureomycin®, AS700®, Bovatec® and Deccox®. As part of a sound nutritional program from Purina, these products help you to protect your investment.

If you have questions about Purina products or want to find the location of your nearest dealer, you can call 1-800-227-8941 or visit our website at www.cattlenutrition.com.



Rod Nulik
Marketing Manager
Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC

Meet Your Speakers

Bill Davis

Bill Davis is president of the American Angus Association. He and his wife, Jennifer, operate Rollin' Rock Angus near Sidney, Mont.

Davis grew up near Belgrade, Mont., buying his first Angus heifer from his dad, Dale Davis, in 1955. He purchased Rollin' Rock from his dad in 1977, continuing the tradition of raising top performance cattle. He and Jennifer moved to Sidney in 1993 and manage approximately 550 head of registered cows on roughly 25,000 owned and leased acres.

Davis has a bachelor's degree in ag business from Montana State University and is a past director of the Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Angus Association, as well as past director and president of the Montana Beef Performance Association.

Davis will welcome you to Montana and to the conference.



Tracey Erickson

Tracey Erickson is a vice president for Certified Angus Beef LLC, the world's leading fresh beef brand. She led the brand's consumer marketing launch in 1998 and today oversees all aspects of the brand's marketing efforts by working with the sales marketing, supply development marketing, education, brand initiatives, public relations, design and culinary teams to implement strategies and direction for the future.

Prior to this role, Erickson served as director of the brand's International Division from 1992 to 1996, where she was instrumental in developing sound licensing policies and procedures for several international markets. International sales during her tenure increased by 325% to 34 million pounds.

Erickson earned her bachelor's degree in animal science and master's degree in the Agricultural Beef Industry Leadership Program at Colorado State University.

Erickson will speak about bridging the gap between the producer and the consumer.



Chef John Doherty

John Doherty is a passionate and creative culinary leader. At age 27, he was the youngest person ever named executive chef of New York City's famed Waldorf=Astoria. He has cooked for more presidents, royalty and heads-of-state than any other chef in the country. During his tenure he elevated the Waldorf=Astoria's cuisine to the highest quality and acclaim.

Beyond his significant culinary skills, Doherty relied on his leadership abilities to drive his team's success. By giving clear direction, setting measurable expectations, and holding his staff accountable, Doherty's team was responsible for cuisine at the most notable events, galas and fund-raisers; at three distinct restaurants, including the famed Bull and Bear Steakhouse; and at all of the hotel's dining operations.

Doherty is frequently featured on national media and is a regular guest speaker at culinary colleges and events. He was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Johnson & Wales University, an honorary master's degree from the Culinary Institute of America, a leadership award from Niagara University, and the Silver Spoon Award from *Food Arts* magazine.

Today, Doherty is principal of the New York-based Wolf Pack Hospitality group.

Chef Doherty will offer insights about leadership — in the kitchen and the dining room.



Charlie Powell

Charlie Powell is the senior public information officer for Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (20 years) and the public information director for the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (17 years). His specialties are crisis and risk communications, as well as media relations and institutional promotion.

Powell will be tackling the topic of why the animal industries are so vulnerable to today's instantaneous communications.



Lee Dickerson

Lee Dickerson is director of national accounts and cattle distribution for Land O' Lakes Purina Feed LLC.

He joined the Purina team in May 1987 and has served as beef technical service manager, director of beef nutrition consulting, general manager of national accounts, and Purina Cattle Management Services director of the Cattle Business Group.

Dickerson attended Frostburg State College and Texas Tech University. He holds bachelor's degrees in political science and



history and in wildlife management. He has a master's degree and a doctoral degree in range ruminant nutrition.

Dickerson resides in Richmond, Va. He will offer insights about sustained nutrition and lifetime performance.

Randy Blach

Randy Blach is CEO of Cattle-Fax, an organization focused on helping member cattle producers make more profitable marketing and management decisions. Cattle-Fax is the beef industry leader in providing timely beef cattle market information, analyses and research.



Blach came to Cattle-Fax in 1981 and served as director of market analysis for 15 years, accepting his current role in 2001. He has been a keynote speaker at hundreds of cattle and beef industry conventions, meetings and seminars.

A Colorado native, Blach and his family remain actively involved in cattle ranching with cow-calf, stocker and finished cattle. He was raised on his family's ranch in Yuma, Colo., and graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in animal science. Blach received the Honor Alumni award from its College of Agricultural Sciences in 2004.

Blach will give conference attendees an overview of the state of the industry with an emphasis on opportunities that are available.

Bryce Schumann

As CEO of the American Angus Association, Bryce Schumann serves as the chief administrative officer of the American Angus Association and vice chairman of the Board of Directors of each of the Association's subsidiaries: Angus Productions Inc. (API), Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and the Angus Foundation.



Schumann joined the Association in 2000 as director of activities. He was named director of member services and office management in April 2001. And until 2004, when Milford Jenkins was hired, Schumann also coordinated efforts for developing the Angus Foundation. He accepted the position of CEO in June 2008.

Before joining the American Angus Association staff, Schumann served as assistant director of feeder-packer relations for CAB Supply Development Division. He has also worked for the Kansas Beef Council and Farm Credit Services.

Schumann received his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, and a master's in business administration from the University of Kansas. He and his wife, Gina, have three sons, Wyatt, Dylan and Jessye, and a daughter, Kassidy. They ranch near Lecompton, Kan.

Schumann will wrap up the conference and prep attendees for the tour to follow.

Meet Us In Montana

Tour Stop: **KG Ranch, Three Forks**

Paul and Kaye Doddridge

Established in 1978, KG ranch is headquartered south of Three Forks, Mont., along the Jefferson River. What started as a small 300-acre parcel has matured into one of the largest registered Angus herds in the United States.

KG Ranch is the pride of owners Paul and Kaye Doddridge. The ranch is comprised of about 30,000 acres, ranging in elevation from 4,300 feet (ft.) to 7,500 ft. Greg Strohecker has managed the ranch for the past 30 years, building it into what it is today. A horseback outfit for sure, hardly a day goes by that the horses aren't wrangled in for the cowboys to do their work. The KG Ranch crew has a passion for ranching and Angus cows.

Visitors to KG often comment on the working facilities. The ranch has an outstanding set of pens to work with on a daily basis, easing cattle processing for both cattle and crew. The buildings, working facilities, feedlots and homes have all been built by Greg and the KG crew.

Expansion was necessary in 2006, and a weaning bull development facility was built at KG Ranch's Sappington division. Seven large pens designed with the feed at the top and water at the bottom of a slight hill ensure young bulls get a lot of exercise during development.

Spring 2010 saw 1,000 calves born to the KG cow herd from KG Ranch-owned bulls such as Connealy Contrast, Rainmaker 9723, Alliance 7544 and Sitz Wisdom.

The KG ranch annual production sale, hosted the first Friday in December, is the highlight of the year. The sale features 200 coming 2-year-old bulls and 400 synchronized and artificially inseminated (AI) commercial bred heifers. KG also sells bulls by private treaty each spring. Quality Angus cattle and repeat customers never go out of style at KG ranch.

Guests (see www.nationalangusconference.com for ranch overviews)

- Heide Ranch of Boulder
- Timber Line Ranch of Belgrade
- Alberda Angus of Bozeman
- Circle L Angus of Wise River

Tour Stop: **Hyline Angus Ranch, Bozeman**

Ken, Alice and Ben Van Dyke

Hyline Angus Ranch was started in 1959 when Ray Van Dyke purchased 10 registered heifers from Harrer's Valley Grove Angus. From the beginning, the basic principles have been to have sound, functional cattle that work for commercial cattlemen.

Continued on next page

The Hyline herd received national recognition by bulls performing well in performance test stations. The cow herd is managed the same as a commercial herd — on grass all summer without creep.

“By doing this we have been able to find the true great cows year after year,” Ben Van Dyke says.

Through the years the Van Dykes have produced several breed-leading sires, such as Hyline Travel Agent, who sold for \$180,000 in Hyline’s 1992 sale; Hyline SVF Rito 1116, who also sold in the 1992 sale to EE Ranches and went on to produce many great females still in the herd today. Through the years the ranch has produced many great females — like Pride of Hyline 8040 and Hyline Pride Lucy 8038.

In 1998, Hyline Right Time 338, an all-around performance bull used by many breeders, was born on the ranch. Sons have been widely accepted by breeders across the country. 338 daughters are known for good udders, sound feet and legs, and producing calves year after year.

Tour Stop: Armstrong Angus Ranch, Cardwell *George Jr. and Fay Armstrong, Chad and Trista Armstrong*

The Armstrongs represent the third and fourth generations to ranch in this valley. The registered herd began in 1974 with three heifers from George’s uncles. In 1976, five heifers were bought from Bob Sitz, and later five more. Cows have also been added from the Glaus, Younkin and Van Dyke herds.

The Armstrongs now manage 250 registered and 100 commercial Angus cows with a few Aubrac cows. The cows mainly summer in the mountains and typically graze until they start calving in late January. The Armstrongs believe input costs must remain low in order to survive in the commercial cattle industry. They want low-maintenance, fertile cattle that produce into their teens. The program is based on calving ease and fertility. Cows must have good udder structure and small teats. Bulls must be masculine, have tight sheaths and be assertive breeders.

Bulls that have worked well for the Armstrongs include: Biffles Emulous, Juanada Lad of RR, Sitz Marshal Pride, Emulation 31, Rito 149, QAS Traveler, Super Bank, Paramout Ambush 2172, Traveler 6807, JLB Exacto, Rito 616 and two of their own bulls (VDAR Traveler 455 and AAR Extra 814). This year’s bull calves are mainly sired by BC Mid Emblazon, SAV Final Answer, Jipsy Earl, AAR Extra 814, AAR Bushwacker 417, Sitz Alliance 7544, SS Objective T510 0T26 and VDAR Traveler 455.

The Armstrongs believe everything on earth belongs to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and that they are here to manage it for his glory. They are breeding cattle with the intent of helping commercial cattlemen remain profitable. Their goal is to assist cattlemen in finding the cattle that suit them best. If they don’t have what a buyer is looking for, they will try to help them find it elsewhere.

Tour Stop: Wheeler Mountain Ranch, Whitehall *Ron and Kate Van Dyke, David Van Dyke, Philip and Jacquie Hofer, and Brett and Stacy Ellison*

Wheeler Mountain Ranch is a family-owned and -operated

ranch overseen by Ron and Kate Van Dyke, along with son David, daughters Stacy and Jacquie, and sons-in-law Brett and Philip, who are all integral parts of the operation.

The Van Dykes have a long history in the Angus business, growing up with Hyline Angus. Ron’s first Angus heifer was an eighth-grade graduation gift from his father, Ray Van Dyke, in 1969. Ron’s herd grew from there, and his family set out on its own in 1988 to continue breeding the high-performing cattle they grew up with.

The operation stocks 700 mother cows on more than 40,000 acres, which means big short-grass sagebrush country on up to high-mountain meadows at 7,500 feet. Environment dictates cattle type. The Van Dykes require a mature cow to wean at least 50% of her weight. Moderation is key, as cows that get too big have a harder time weaning 50%, and cattle that are too small usually lack the performance required. Environment serves as the best sorting stick, and their commercial customers appreciate the fact that they test their cattle in the real world.

With this selection pressure, it stands to reason that bulls raised in the program would do well in the program. McBee WMR Super X 745 and WMR Dateline 210 are home-raised bulls that have left outstanding daughters. On the tour stop, you will see sire groups from proven sires like SRA 2418 of RR 303, Leachman Right Time 338-5605 and WMR Packer 1036, as well as the very first calves by Apex Windy 078 and WMR Timeless 458, the high-selling bull of their 2009 sale, selling to Harrison Land and Cattle. He is a featured young sire at Accelerated Genetics.

Bulls are sold in the ranch’s annual production sale hosted the fourth Tuesday of March. Cows are sold by private treaty.

- Guest** (see www.nationalangusconference.com for ranch overview)
- *South Boulder Angus of Cardwell*

Tour Stop: Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall *Steve and Linda Buckner, Hans and Diana Buckner*

Split Diamond Ranch originated in the higher mountains south of Wise River, Mont., in the 1970s. The Buckners moved to Whitehall in 1991 to increase the herd from 110 pairs to the current 450 registered Angus females. The Wise River ranch is still used today as summer pasture for bred replacement heifers.

Steve and Linda Buckner and Hans and Diana Buckner calve to be done in a 45-day period, beginning mid-January and lasting through February. Cows bred to calve in March and April are marketed in the fall. Maternally superior females with nursing ratios of 103% or higher and 100 replacement heifers are AIed. The balance of the cows are used as recipient cows for the embryo program, allowing the Buckners to AI more than 200 cows and implant 120 embryos per year.

The Buckners use maternally superior sires with curve-bending genetics to promote easier calving and higher weaning weights. The herd is heavily influenced by EXT, Sitz Traveler 8180, Traveler 124, Leachman Right Time, Band 105, and Bando 155. More recent use of Mytty In Focus, HA Image Maker, Connealy Lead On, SAV Final Answer and Justice N013 has allowed the Buckners to continue to produce efficient, long-lasting females and bulls.

Cows with bull calves summer in the Big Hole Valley on high-altitude grass, which promotes muscle growth and development. The bulls are weaned at the end of August and put on green grass pasture for 40 days until they begin a 110-day performance test on a high-roughage ration targeted for gains of 3 pounds per day prior to sale. Bulls and replacement heifers are scanned by ultrasound for carcass merit as yearlings. Calves are tested for bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) at birth, along with any new arrivals to the ranch.

The Buckners will sell 100 yearling Angus bulls in their March spring bull sale. Females are marketed through their bull sale, the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) in Billings, the National Western Foundation Female Sale in Denver and by private treaty.

The Buckners are very fortunate and proud to have the crew of Nacho Rodrigues, Chuck Walker and their families working with them.

Tour Stop: Van Dyke Angus Ranch, Manhattan

Keith Van Dyke, Lee Van Dyke, Clarence Van Dyke

Van Dyke Angus was started in 1960 by Clarence Van Dyke and is now run by Keith and Lee Van Dyke with the help of Paul and Nathan Feddes and Travis Kindred. The Angus herd consists of 400 registered cows, split between two different locations: one, east of Manhattan, Mont.; the other, the old home place between Bozeman and Churchill, Mont.

The Van Dykes host an annual bull sale the last Thursday of February in which they sell 175 bulls. They sell 150 females by private treaty in the fall. They also farm 1,500 acres of irrigated and dry land.

The philosophy at Van Dyke Angus Ranch is to breed profitable cattle for the commercial industry.

“The most important decisions that we make here are the cattle we choose to keep in our herd,” Keith says. Fertility is a priority. If any cow does not breed within a 42-day window, she is culled regardless of who she is or what she has done. Other necessities are structural soundness, mothering ability, longevity, ease of fleshing, docile temperament and udder quality.

Guests (see www.nationalangusconference.com for ranch overviews)

- *Yadon Angus Ranch of Manhattan*
- *Kimm Angus of Manhattan*
- *PAPA Livestock of Belgrade*
- *Westra Angus of Manhattan*

Tour Stop: Montana State University Bioscience Lab, Bozeman

The state-of-the-art Montana State University (MSU) Animal Bioscience Building will allow the growth and expansion of education and research programs that better meet current and future needs of agriculture and the livestock industry. Together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Animal Bioscience Research Facility, the Animal Bioscience Building is an integral part of the long-range plan of MSU and the College of Agriculture/Montana Agriculture Experiment Station to increase the competitiveness and profitability of agriculture, especially the livestock industry; prepare the agriculture community for the 21st century; and capture added value of regional and national resources in a global economy.



PHOTOS BY KELLY GORHAM, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The state-of-the-art Montana State University (MSU) Animal Bioscience Building is depicted above in the architect’s model and below during construction.



The complex will provide opportunities to promote wise multiple-use stewardship of Montana’s natural resources and celebrate Montana’s rich heritage in livestock and natural resources. The U.S. Congressional delegation continues to fully support the broader project by keeping the USDA-ARS Animal Bioscience Research Facility at the forefront and securing funding for it every year.

The \$15.7-million, 40,000-square-foot teaching facility will house the Department of Animal and Range Sciences. It includes classrooms, teaching laboratories, technology transfer rooms, research facilities and faculty and staff offices. Construction began in August 2008. Completion is expected by fall 2010. The outreach capabilities of the facility will ensure that both students and producers are kept abreast of animal and range research conducted at MSU, including the functional genetics research occurring in the USDA-ARS facility.

Of the \$15.7 million, half of the funds have been raised privately from farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and other supporters across the state and throughout the country. The range-livestock community has been very supportive of the project with large donations pledged by livestock-related producer organizations in the state, several banks, a few major companies, and multiple individuals and ranches. The Ranchers Circle recognizes ranches, businesses and individuals who commit \$10,000 or more to the Animal Bioscience Building. There are currently 141 members of the Ranchers Circle, all of whom will be recognized on a donor wall in the building for their visionary generosity.

Continued on next page