

# Touring Cowboy Country

2008 National Angus Conference & Tour features  
Oklahoma cattle producers, industry.

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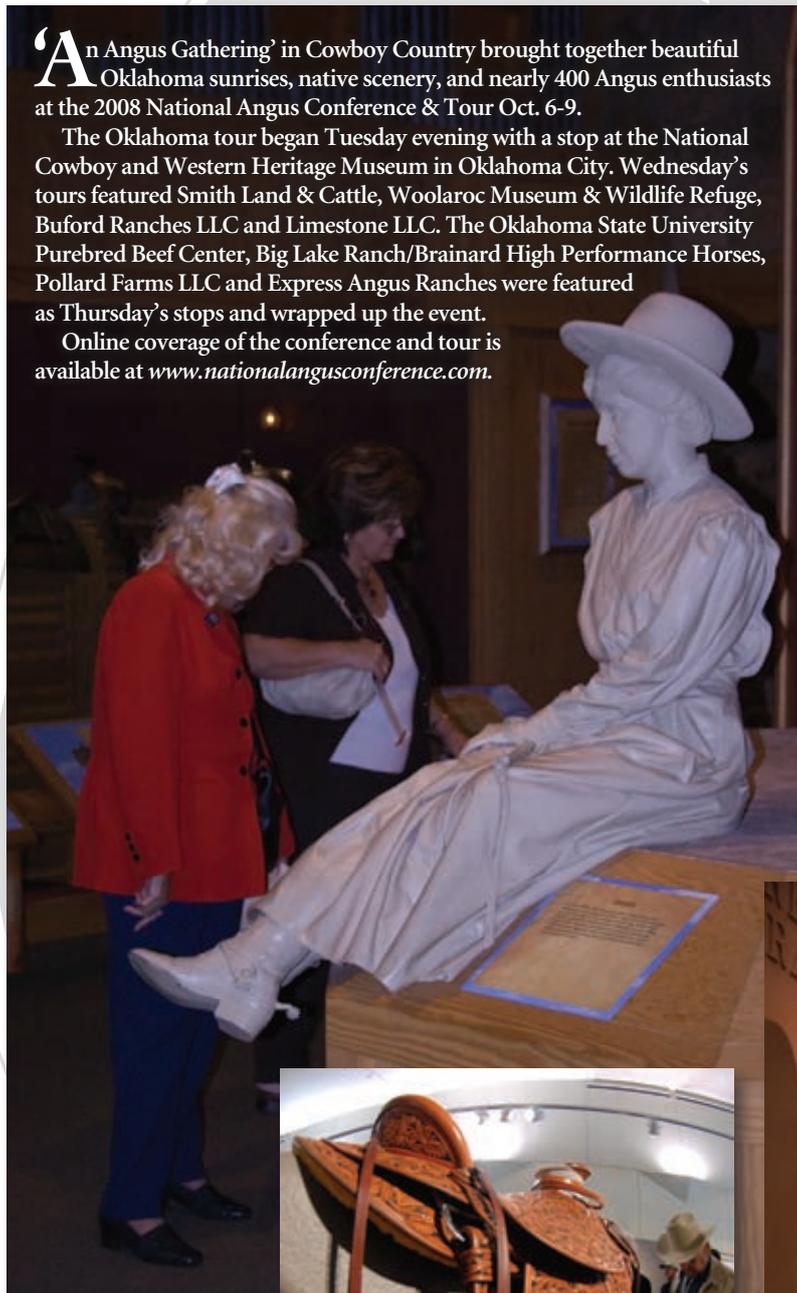
**A**n Angus Gathering' in Cowboy Country brought together beautiful Oklahoma sunrises, native scenery, and nearly 400 Angus enthusiasts at the 2008 National Angus Conference & Tour Oct. 6-9.

The Oklahoma tour began Tuesday evening with a stop at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Wednesday's tours featured Smith Land & Cattle, Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Refuge, Buford Ranches LLC and Limestone LLC. The Oklahoma State University Purebred Beef Center, Big Lake Ranch/Brainard High Performance Horses, Pollard Farms LLC and Express Angus Ranches were featured as Thursday's stops and wrapped up the event.

Online coverage of the conference and tour is available at [www.nationalangusconference.com](http://www.nationalangusconference.com).



►Tour attendees were able to look back on how the West was won during the first stop on the tour at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.



►Items on display at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum included those from recent times to centuries past.



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► **Above:** Approximately 400 attendees toured Cowboy Country in six tour buses.

► **Right:** Joe and Willodine Van Nice, Hanna, Okla., and A.J. Smith, editor of *Oklahoma Cowman*, catch up Wednesday morning at the first stop of the day, Smith Land & Cattle Co.



► Vast plains of native bluestem are home to Smith Land & Cattle Co.'s Claremore, Okla., registered Angus herd.



► **Above & right:** The ranch retreat of oilman Frank Phillips, Woolaroc, is located in the Osage Hills and features a nature trail, a museum and two living history areas inviting tour attendees to experience the natural environment of a pre-Civil War 1840s mountain man's camp and an early-day oil lease.



► A chuck-wagon lunch provides an authentic Western feel to attendees.



► **Above & left:** Tour attendees took advantage of Woolaroc's native scenery and the beautiful Oklahoma autumn weather to pose for group photos.



► Tour buses traveled across Oklahoma's tall-grass prairie showcasing Buford Ranches LLC. The operation manages nearly 8,500 cows, of which 1,300 are registered.

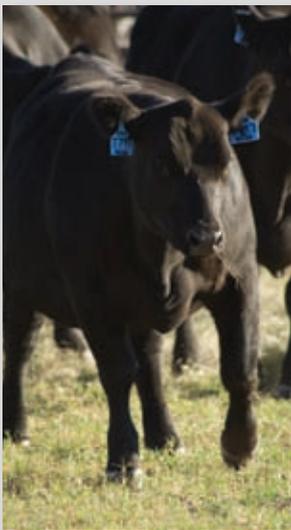


► **Above:** Land stewardship is vital to Buford Ranches LLC, Vinita. Ranch hands are expected to care equally for the land as they do the cattle.

► **Inset above:** Sam Buford gives a history lesson on the lead bus of how Buford Ranches LLC was created.



► Beginning as a 200-cow operation, Limestone LLC quickly grew to include 700 head of registered Angus mother cows and 1,500 all-black commercial cows. In addition, Limestone has a 5,000-head capacity feedyard.



► **Left & above:** Limestone LLC utilizes an extensive ET and AI program, implanting 700 embryos annually and Aling 150 registered heifers each spring.

► **Right:** Chris McCutchen, owner of Limestone LLC, welcomes tour attendees to Perkins on their last stop of the day.



► Good food and live music rounded out the day at Limestone LLC. Oklahoma natives and country music hit makers No Justice play as tour attendees enjoy the end of a good day.

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►Above: Board candidate Charles Rosson, Louisa, Va., wife Shelly and daughter Ellen enjoy a crisp October morning at Oklahoma State University's Purebred Beef Center in Stillwater.



►Robert Whitson, dean of Oklahoma State University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, welcomes attendees to the OSU Purebred Beef Center.



►Above & left: High-quality Angus genetics brought onlookers from outside the tour to the OSU Purebred Beef Center. Several Oklahoma producers had cattle on display Thursday morning for NAC&T tour attendees to view.



►Right: Armbruster Cattle Co. was one of the showcased lots during the NAC&T stop at the OSU Purebred Beef Center.



►Jody Brainard has been training horses his entire life. Brainard High Performance Horses focuses on high-quality training experiences, working with only eight horses at a time to give individual attention as needed.



►Left: Switzerland-based Gary Isler owns the scenic Big Lake Ranch near Mulhall, where Jody Brainard trains and rides horses.



►Brainard High Performance Horses appreciated the attention received from tour patrons. Brainard focuses his attention on reining, one of the fastest-growing equine sporting events.





► **Left:** Neurosurgeon and cattleman Barry Pollard owns Pollard Farms, a registered Angus ranch that includes a farming operation consisting of wheat, rye and hay along with a stocker and commercial cow herd.

► **Right & below:** Attendees stretched their legs after a lunch provided by Pollard Farms and looked at the quality Angus genetics on display.



► The Pollard operation utilizes extensive AI and an intensive donor and ET program, helping the ranch reach its primary goal of producing registered Angus cattle with balanced functional genetics.

► The NAC&T offered many great opportunities to interact with members and to see great cattle, says Bryce Schumann, Association CEO.



► Gathered in the Express Ranches sale barn, guests ended the Oklahoma tour with a nice tri-tip dinner and Angus fellowship.



► **Above:** Express Ranches, Yukon, is home to more than 5,000 cattle, registering more than 2,000 calves each year.

► **Left:** Association Regional Manager Matt Caldwell ends the tour with a big thank you to the state of Oklahoma for hosting the 2008 NAC&T.

► **Right:** Angus members from across the nation gathered in Oklahoma, as well as a few visitors from outside the country. Jorge Jara (left) is from Colombia, and Shelley Piper and Matt Cherry are from Australia.

