The following listing is a summary of sales reported since publication of the January 2016 "Salering Summary." Sales are presented in alphabetical order with herd location; sale date; and reported number of lots sold, sale gross and sale average.

More detailed summaries of the sales are posted at www.angusjournal.com/aj_salereports.html. Online sale reports include top lots, category averages, auctioneer(s), sale manager(s), Angus Journal representative(s) and volume buyer information.

Table 1: December and FY 2016 summary of sales reported to the American Angus Association

	Consignment	Production	Dispersion	Total	Year-to-date
SALES Number reported	10	30	1	41	177
COWS Number sold Average price Gross	228 \$3,910 -	1,127 \$4,028 -	87 \$4,293 -	1,442 \$4,025 -	6,297 \$5,449 \$34,313,574
BULLS Number sold Average price Gross	222 \$4,241 -	2,692 \$6,333 -	- - -	2,914 \$6,173 -	8,475 \$6,106 \$51,745,943
STEERS Number sold Average price Gross	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	29 \$2,100 \$60,900
COMBINED TOTALS Number sold Gross	501 \$2,897,115	3,909 \$22,316,903	87 \$373,500	4,497 \$25,587,518	22,365 \$112,010,907

			F	Reported sale totals		
Ranch name	Ranch location	Sale date	No. lots	Sale gross	Sale avg.	
Beef Country Breeders	Columbus, MT	12/2/15	96	496,029	5,166	
Big Timber Cattle Co.	Lithia, FL	12/19/15	8	170,100	21,262	
Bramblett Angus Farm	Elberton, GA	12/5/15	54	170,700	3,161	
Bridges Angus Farm Bull Sale	Rayle, GA	11/28/15	63	270,550	4,294	
Brooks' Chalky Butte Angus Ranch	Bowman, SD	12/9/15	182	515,350	2,831	
Burgess Angus Ranch	Homedale, ID	12/11/15	49	186,550	3,807	
Butner Bull Test Sale	Oxford, NC	12/18/15	47	171,000	3,638	
Calhoun PT Bull Sale	Calhoun, GA	12/4/15	53	182,800	3,449	
California Angus Days Sale	Turlock, CA	12/5/15	30	182,525	6,084	
Cottonwood Angus Farms	Pipestone, MN	11/7/15	78	335,800	4,305	
Currant Creek Angus Bull Sale	Roundup, MT	12/5/15	125	700,989	5,607	
Dikoff Ranch Mature Cow Dispersion	Onaka, SD	12/8/15	87	373,500	4,293	
Duppong's Willow Creek Bred Female Sale	Mandan, ND	12/5/15	86	215,600	2,506	
Earl Marshall Angus Sale	Anita, IA	12/5/15	64	183,500	2,867	
Genetic Excellence	Cookeville, TN	1/2/16	80	356,650	4,458	
Gerloff Farms	Bland, MO	10/24/15	128	442,206	3,454	
Griswold Cattle Co. Classic Female Sale	Stillwater, OK	12/19/15	34	301,100	8,855	
Hunt Creek Angus Bull & Commercial Replacement Heifer Sale	Miles City, MT	12/15/15	37	141,250	3,817	
Indreland Angus	Big Timber, MT	12/14/15	35	147,750	4,221	
JR Ranch/Sackmann Cattle Co. Black Friday Sale	Othello, WA	11/27/15	80	251,532	3,144	
KG Angus	Three Forks, MT	12/4/15	279	1,719,198	6,162	
Knoll Crest Farm Bull Sale	Red House, VA	12/4/15	155	1,123,000	7,245	
Lazy JB Angus Online Heifer Sale	Montrose, CO	10/27/15	10	122,900	12,290	
Lone Star Angus Alliance Bull Sale	Hallettsville, TX	12/4/15	108	506,000	4,685	
Malson Angus & Herefords	Parma, ID	11/22/15	122	440,806	3,613	
Minnesota Angus Ass'n Female Sale	Hutchinson, MN	12/19/15	33	113,350	3,434	
Nat'l Angus Finals	Las Vegas, NV	12/6/15	35	1,002,350	28,638	
NE Arkansas Angus Ass'n Fall Sale	Batesville, AR	11/21/15	87	351,377	4,038	
North Dakota Angus Ass'n	Mandan, ND	1/2/16	51	268,700	5,268	
North Star Classic Angus Sale	Valley City, ND	12/5/15	19	66,500	3,500	

			Reported sale totals		
Ranch name	Ranch location	Sale date	No. lots	Sale gross	Sale avg.
Paint Rock Angus	Hyattville, WY	12/10/15	125	708,250	5,666
Pyramid Beef	Saint Onge, SD	12/5/15	78	555,750	7,125
Riverbend Ranch	Idaho Falls, ID	12/12/15	234	958,750	4,097
Shipwheel Cattle Co.	Chinook, MT	12/9/15	76	579,500	7,625
Sitz Angus	Harrison, MT	12/3/15	404	3,539,444	8,761
Slovek Angus Ranch	Philip, SD	12/15/15	18	96,750	5,375
Spickler Ranch	Glenfield, ND	12/12/15	98	527,450	5,382
Springfield Angus	Louisburg, NC	12/12/15	71	250,800	3,532
Stars of Montana	Columbus, MT	12/12/15	70	328,361	4,690
Stevenson Angus	Hobson, MT	12/1/15	222	1,506,936	6,788
Stevenson's Diamond Dot	Hobson, MT	11/30/15	418	2,634,037	6,301
Sydenstricker Genetics	Mexico, MO	11/21/15	433	2,330,942	5,383
Tennessee River Music/Dyar Angus High Cotton Bull Sale	Fort Payne, AL	12/5/15	31	114,400	3,690
Timberland Cattle Black Angus & Sim-Angus Bull Sale	Vernon, AL	11/21/15	32	136,300	4,259
TK Angus	Valentine, NE	12/7/15	439	2,137,869	4,869
Virginia BCIA Culpeper Sr. PT Bull Sale	Rapidan, VA	12/12/15	51	187,200	3,670
Wulf Cattle Online Female Sale	Morris, MN	11/24/15	13	50,000	3,846



Nothing replaces the real thing

"Along America's Angus Trails" thought, from reading and hearing all the mass media accounts of the pure joy, satisfaction and delirium of eliminating red meat from your diet, that there must be a real peace, calm and sense of nirvana overtaking these so-called "healthy eaters."

Taste testing

Well, the Associated Press (AP) did a consumer taste test to find out. Its results will bring joy to the hearts of Angus and other red-meat producers, but should be a cause for alarm among alternative-meat production companies.

While the meat-alternative market is attracting millions of dollars in investments and media fanfare, with newer companies saying their products are healthier and gentler on the environment, the recipes they're cooking up might not be quite ready for prime time.

AP's simple question to its tasting panel was, "How far have vegan alternatives come to tasting like the real thing?"

Not far enough, according to the less-thanpeaceful, calm responses from the tasters. Said one panelist about vegetarian bacon, "It reminds me of Beggin' Strips for pets," made by Purina. Of course, the real question is, "How does he know?"

"Noxious" and "kind of not natural" were

among the reactions to some of the meatless alternatives being pushed by a new generation of vegan food makers that want to revolutionize the way Americans eat.

Byron Champlin, a city councillor in Concord, N.H., and member of the panel, said, "If I were to eat this thinking it is a regular hamburger, I might think it's spoiled," after tasting a beefless patty made by Gardein.

The other Gardein reviews were no more charitable. Dan St. Jean, executive chef for The Common Man restaurants in New Hampshire, thought the Gardein patty had a strange smell.

"It almost tastes like someone tried to make a meatball into a hamburger, but did something wrong," agreed Sarah Kinney, a community news editor for the *Concord Monitor*.

The reaction was even worse for Beyond Meat's Beast Burger, which was introduced in 2015. Unlike Gardein, Beyond Meat says it wants to replicate the taste of real meat, rather than just offer vegetarian alternatives. Yet

Champlin spit out the Beast Burger after one bite and called it "noxious and non-recognizable."

The three tasters found the Original Griller from Morningstar Foods the least offensive. It wasn't exactly a hit either, though Champlin said he would eat it, if there were nothing else around.

Fake chicken didn't fare much better. Kinney said Beyond Meat's Southwestern-flavored strips were rubbery and didn't taste like chicken. Champlin thought they left a bad aftertaste. Another panelist said his kids would eat the chicken-breast look-alike by Quom if he covered it in cheese and marinara sauce.

Another said it looked like a grilled baguette. All noted a lack of tantalizing aromas wafting from the kitchen, where a chef prepared the samples. Champlin said, by contrast, meat would have filled the space with mouthwatering smells. Another said, "If your back was to the stove, you wouldn't know what was cooking."

All the panelists agreed there was no "wow" factor in any of the products sampled, and that nothing stood out as being better than the real thing.

It sounds like the good folks at *Certified Angus Beef LLC* don't need to be shaking in their boots yet, but it never hurts to be vigilant. After all, the standard "least offensive" is a pretty low bar to jump over.

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Editor's Note: Dan Green is a Denver-based historian, author, retired editor of the The Record Stockman and the voice of "Along America's Angus Trails," a regular feature on Angus Media's SiriusXM satellite radio program, Angus Talk.Angus Talk airs at 10 a.m., Central time, every Saturday on Rural Radio, Channel 80.