

# A Celebration of 135 Years

**Kansas Angus activities commemorate the past and look to the future.**

by *Shelia Stannard*

*The American Angus Association turns 125 this fall. Recognition of the milestone will occur at various Angus events during the year. As part of the celebration, the Angus Journal will feature glimpses of the past throughout the year.*



**W**hen George Grant brought those first Angus bulls to the Kansas prairie just 135 years ago, he had no idea what an effect the polled, black bovine would make. As an agricultural innovator, Grant left his mark on the rural town of Victoria, Kan., and the beef industry.


Today, Angus cattle still cover the Kansas prairie. In fact, Angus genetics roam in all 50 states, either in seedstock operations, commercial herds or both. And, 135 years later, the town of Victoria still recognizes its founder and the man who introduced the Angus breed to America.

The American Angus Association has been working closely with the city of Victoria to revitalize the monument that honors Grant and those first Angus bulls during this year — the 125th anniversary of the Association.

“In order to look to the future, we must study and celebrate the past,” says Jim Shirley, vice president of industry relations, who spearheaded the project to restore the monument and the cemetery where Grant is buried. “It is important to commemorate the beginning of our breed and to keep future generations of beef producers informed on how Angus in the U.S. got its humble start.”

To cap off the monument renovations and to celebrate the milestones of Angus in America and the Association’s anniversary, the Kansas Angus Association will host its 2008 field day Sept. 27 in Victoria. A daylong program is planned, which will include a historical perspective, featured speakers and a *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand lunch. Area Angus breeders will also display cattle around the monument, which is located at 1st Street & Angus Drive.

The Kansas Angus Association Field Day will begin at 10 a.m., with cattle viewing. A formal program will follow lunch, along with the unveiling of the monument renovations. Historical tours and tours of the Grant Villa are tentatively planned. The field day will conclude in late afternoon, allowing historians to visit more of the German settlement or attend Saturday evening mass at Saint Fidelis Church, also known as the “Cathedral of the Plains” and one of the eight wonders of Kansas.

There is no registration fee to attend the tour, but preregistrations are appreciated to accurately plan for the meal. To preregister or for more information, contact Anne Lampe, Kansas Angus Association secretary at 620-872-3915 or e-mail her at [kansasangus@wbsnet.org](mailto:kansasangus@wbsnet.org). 



▶A historical marker on the edge of Victoria celebrates the early English and German settlers.



▶The George Grant Cemetery and Monument is appropriately located at the intersection of First and Angus.



▶Above: A view from the Southeast corner of the cemetery shows the monument with the city of Victoria in the background.



▶Left: Overgrown trees were replaced this year with younger trees that won't overshadow the monument.

# ars of Angus in the U.S.



► A lighted sidewalk leads from the entrance to the monument. The sidewalk is one of several renovations made this spring.



► The monument was erected in 1943 and rededicated in 1973 during the Association's centennial.



► **Above:** Tombstones of other early settlers to the area are located in the back part of the cemetery. Fresh gravel and edging helps preserve the history for those interested in genealogy

► **Below:** Two tombstones with conflicting dates for Grant are directly in front of the monument.



► **Above and below:** Historical inscriptions were added to the monument when it was rededicated 35 years ago.

