

Angus producers have successful three days

By Cori Lee Miller
The Eagle

After a 24-year absence in Canada the World Angus Forum (WAF) returned to cattle country, this time in Calgary and busier than ever.

One thousand purebred Angus cattle, 770 registered delegates from 20 countries, and an army of volunteers descended on Spruce Meadows July 13-16, and Angus was the one thing on everyone's mind.

The WAF takes place every four years, alternating between locations in the northern and southern hemispheres. The last time the forum was held in Canada was 1985 in Edmonton.

Doug Reid, owner of Reid Angus with his wife Kate and family, and chairman of the bid committee responsible for bringing WAF to Calgary, said it was an honor to host the event, and that this year they worked hard to draw in more people.

"What we wanted to do was change the demographics," he said.

Reid said attendees are normally aged 55 to 75, and approximately 400 people usually attend.

This year's WAF marked the first time that youths from across Canada and the world could fully participate, bringing in a younger crowd. About 800 breeders, buyers, sellers and Angus fans attended this year's forum.

"So that's a big accomplishment," said Reid.

A unique embryo program was also a first

at the WAF, with youths showing off the best Angus that their countries had to offer.

Embryos had to be shipped over from participating countries and implanted in 2007 to be ready for the 2009 show.

The program was a part of allowing international youth to provide living, breathing examples of how their Angus are progressing back home, hopefully generating interest for the cattle on the international market.

John Lee, chairman of the WAF organizing committee, explained that Angus are so popular because they do very well in commercial operations, adapting to climate, geography and different types of feed easily.

Angus are also known for calving ease, milking ability, being naturally polled (no horns), feed conversion, carcass quality, and having a highly marbled meat.

"Certainly in North America they are becoming the predominant breed," he said.

"They kind of put it all together I guess."

Lee said there's two reasons producers attend the forum: genetics and networking.

Genetics play an important role for producers who are always looking for the best genes to produce desirable traits in their beef and breeding cattle.

"Your continually looking for new genetic traits that will compliment what you are trying to do," Lee said.

"That's the whole objective, to better and advance their own breeding programs."

Reid also said Canada has a lot of offer others when it comes to genetics.

"The gene pool of any herd is significant and the genetics that Canada has to offer can be exported anywhere in the world because of our very high health standards."

The other big important part of the WAF is networking.

Lee said "there was certainly some business done in terms of cattle being sold," but explained it's the contacts breeders and buyers make that could pay off big in days, months or years to come.

"It's what you might do a year or three years down the road because of those contacts you made."

Whether it's bull semen and embryos purchased for Angus herds over seas, or two local producers buying and selling breeding stock, Lee said any encounters "that will actually lead to business," are good things.

Reid said the event's success is owed to the over 450 volunteers who donated their time.

"There were lots and lots of unsung heroes that made the forum work," he said.

"It takes a tremendous amount of volunteers," he said, adding that "they gave selflessly of their own time."

Cochrane producers Hamilton Farms, Reid Angus, and 3 G Ventures all exhibited cattle at the event.

The next WAF will be held in 2013, in New Zealand.

For information on Angus cattle, visit the Alberta Angus Association at www.albertaangus.ca or the Canadian Angus Association at www.cdnangus.ca

Trio breeding success

By Cori Lee Miller
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Five quiet, docile, black cows and calves are tied to a fence, obviously not bothered by standing in one place for any length of time.

Like most cows, these ones have big wet noses and liquid brown eyes — all the makings of a cute photo. However, these cows are different.

Pure black, heavily muscled, with perfectly groomed hair and impeccable halter manners, they are no certainly ordinary cows.

Having just returned from the junior portion of the World Angus Forum (WAF) these cows are award winning, 100 per cent black Angus, selling for up to \$10,000 each.

They're owned by 3G Ventures, a trio of producers well versed in the finer points of breeding award-winning cattle.

Cole, 15, Randi-Lyn, 17, and Taylor Giles, 13, have been building their herd for the past three years.

This year they attended the first ever youth portion of the WAF, winning three medals: a gold for two year old cow-calf, a

silver for mature cow-calf, and a silver for yearling heifer.

This marks the first year youth were able to fully participate.

The enthusiastic producers took five of their herd to the event, but have 13 head in total.

The three decided to breed black Angus because their parents, Clint and Glenda Giles, run a 375-head black Angus commercial operation, and they wanted to stick with a breed that "we know and Canada knows well."

The three traveled to the WAF in Spruce Meadows to do exactly what other Angus producers were doing. Networking, showing off their cattle, and getting the 3 G Ventures name out there.

"It was exciting, it really gets your adrenaline running," said Cole of the event.

"We met a whole bunch of people from all over in Europe, Australia, New Zealand."

The sheer number of Angus also pleased the producers.

"It was just the thrill of going there and seeing all these fabulous cattle in one place," said Taylor.

The three are focusing on the



The Giles trio show off their award winning cow-calf pair. The pair is just two of 13 purebred Black Angus cattle the three teens have in their herd.

Photo by Cori Miller

genetics in their herd, working to produce the best Angus cattle possible.

"We want sort of the genetics to pair up so we get the best genetics that we can," Cole explained.

The three already know what they want, looking to produce long, deep boned cattle, wide at the top line, hip and rump, with a lot of muscling, a uniform shape for balance, as well as good feet, knees and udders.

"A lot of people really had a lot of interest in our cattle, like from overseas. Everyone

thought our cattle looked really good. It was quite a compliment," Cole said.

As for the next WAF in 2013, 3 G Ventures may attend.

"We might not take cattle but I might try to go then just to see the cattle," said Randi-Lyn.

The three plan to continue on, expanding and improving the herd while consistently producing better calves.

Cole said he would eventually like to see the herds numbers rise into the 200 range.

Visit www.worldangusforum.com for information.

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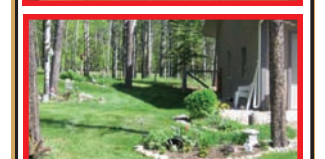


Just Listed



40 Tuscany Valley Lane
1401 sq. ft. two storey, new floors, some paint, finished down, double garage, close to amenities, good sized backyard.

Just Listed



Grand Valley
2485 sq ft bungalow on 20.8 acres. Many trees, private location, immaculate conditions; superb floor plan, pond & camping area.

Bottrel Store & House



Great Family Business Opportunity strikes! Lovely 3+1 bed bungalow on 1.26 acres +++, Great country store business adjacent to campground. Complete creek access.

Dog Pound Area



Lot in Dogpound with garage on 0.57 acres. Nice quiet area, country setting. Build your own home.

94 Cochrane Cres.



This beautiful unique bungalow backs on the park. Hardwood floors, vaulted pine ceilings, sunny bright windows greet you when you walk in. Pride of ownership shines through.