A Project to Produce Calves from Selected Historical Angus Bulls

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A Project to Produce Calves from Selected Historical Angus Bulls

Abstract
As part of the 50th anniversary of the McNay Research Farm, cows were inseminated with semen from Angus bulls of the 1950s and the 1970/1980s. The goal was to produce calves from Angus bulls that were popular 50 years ago and 25 years ago for viewing at the McNay Research Farm's 50th Anniversary celebration in September 2006.

Keywords
Animal Science

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Animal Sciences

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A Project to Produce Calves from Selected Historical Angus Bulls

Mark S. Honeyman, professor
Department of Animal Science
Dennis Maxwell and Kevin Maher, ag research specialists

Introduction
As part of the 50th anniversary of the McNay Research Farm, cows were inseminated with semen from Angus bulls of the 1950s and the 1970/1980s. The goal was to produce calves from Angus bulls that were popular 50 years ago and 25 years ago for viewing at the McNay Research Farm’s 50th Anniversary celebration in September 2006.

Materials and Methods
Dr. William P. Switzer, Ames, was asked to assist in identifying bulls and locating the semen. Dr. Switzer is a retired ISU veterinary researcher and avid Angus enthusiast. After considerable difficulty, he was able to help in securing a donation of a few ampules of frozen semen from Neal Smith, Walnut, IA for two Angus bulls from the 1950s—Ballot of Belladrum and Bardolier 532 of Wilton. The semen was “in an old semen tank that had been handed down to him.” For the 1970/1980s, bulls were selected from the top ten bulls of the era based on the number of calves registered. Schearbrook Shoshone and Pine Drive Big Sky were the two bulls that produced calves.

Results and Discussion
Although the semen from the 1950s was evaluated as fair to poor quality, calves were produced—four calves from Ballot of Belladrum and three calves from Bardolier 532 of Wilton. Only three calves were produced from the 1970/1980s bulls (Table 1). All the calves were born in spring 2006. Ballot of Belladrum was a Scottish-bred bull that reportedly won the 1958 Royal Highland Livestock Show in Edinburgh, Scotland and was later imported to the U.S. His mature 4-year old liveweight was reportedly 1,850 lb.

The calves were displayed at the McNay Research Farm’s 50th Anniversary Field Day on September 14, 2006 and were popular with the crowd.

The Ballot of Belladrum calves were thick, medium height calves with good disposition. The Bardolier calves had more frame and slightly less muscling. The 1970/1980s calves were taller with less muscling.

Two bulls, 661 and 667, sons of Ballot of Belladrum, were deemed worthy of semen collection. The bulls are being registered and collected. Semen will be made available for purchase.
**Table 1. Progeny of selected historical Angus bulls, 2007.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bull Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>AAA reg#</th>
<th>Progeny</th>
<th>Avg Prog</th>
<th>Avg PreWean</th>
<th>Avg PostWean</th>
<th>65 bull avg=3.56</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballot of Belladrum</td>
<td>12/08/54</td>
<td>2797832</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bardolier 532 of Wilton</td>
<td>09/10/57</td>
<td>2590047</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schearbrook Shoshone</td>
<td>02/07/71</td>
<td>7011424</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Drive Big Sky</td>
<td>07/04/80</td>
<td>9894245</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Individual bull calf data from historical Angus bulls, 2007.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calf no.</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Birth wt.</th>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>Dam no.</th>
<th>Weight 3/14/07</th>
<th>ADG Dec-Mar</th>
<th>ADG Feb-Mar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>661</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/5/06</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Ballot of Belladrum</td>
<td>ISU Reina Q 0024</td>
<td>13652162</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>667</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/6/06</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ballot of Belladrum</td>
<td>ISU Reina Q 0216</td>
<td>13627887</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>795</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/17/06</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Ballot of Belladrum</td>
<td>ISU Reina Q 8329</td>
<td>13272054</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>3.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>755</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/12/06</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Bardolier 532 of Wilton</td>
<td>ISU Reina R 8013</td>
<td>13630300</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>3.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>719</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/8/06</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Schearbrook Shoshone</td>
<td>ISU Reina R 1119</td>
<td>14450614</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>909</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>5/5/06</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Pine Drive Big Sky</td>
<td>ISU Reina R 0095</td>
<td>13652170</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>2.78</td>
<td>3.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>721</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>4/9/06</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Pine Drive Big Sky</td>
<td>Blackcap Eileen 454F Lar</td>
<td>12672247</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average of all 65 bulls born at McNay Farm, Spring 2007 940 3.56 3.57