



CBCIA Producers of the Year Honored

2004 Seedstock Producer of the Year

Vintage Angus Ranch, owned by **James E. Coleman**, with ranches near Modesto and La Grange was named **CBCIA's 2004 Seedstock Producer of the Year**. This family-owned operation has been in business for 28 years. Vintage Angus annually calves close to 325 head. The herd is primarily a spring-calving herd with a group of 40 fall-calving cows. The Vintage herd is a quality driven operation using embryo transplant as its main production system, which allows them to offer customers full and maternal siblings, allowing them to raise the consistency level of their calf crop.

Vintage Angus Ranch is a leader of balanced genetics by being dedicated to never stop emphasizing the importance of material and functional qualities, while at the same time having balanced EPD values and DNA markers. General manager **Doug Worthington** and his team have worked to accomplish their goal of being the breed leader by being the first in America to introduce new DNA marker testing technology in both their bull and female sales in 2003 and followed in both 2004 sales with additional DNA marker results.

The long term goal of the operation is to produce and develop "ultimate Angus genetics" to reach the levels of production efficiency, performance and carcass traits that the cattle industry wants. The team at Vintage pursues this by a relentless search for the right sires, great Angus females, and a vigorous ongoing selection and culling process which has become the basis of their proven production system. They have become a breed leader in the use of DNA marker technology and believe thoroughly in applying it aggressively as technology advances in their program. They believe no single factor from the seedstock producer to the retailer has the potential to affect profitability more than genetics and will provide more accurate evaluation of genetic potential, especially at an early age.

They manage their livestock inventory database on the Angus herd management system AIMS, along with the web based services offered by the Angus Association. This system allows for ease of registrations, inventory, performance, data collection, breeding, and calving record management.

Vintage Angus manages the financial operations through the use of Quick Books Premier accounting software. This allows for budgeting, general booking and tracking of all fixed assets in a very useable format. The information is easily exported to Excel for further analysis. It operates on a Windows server network.

Among the first in California to introduce ET technology, embryo transfer has become Vintage's primary production method with over two-thirds of their annual calf crop produced from embryo transplants. The majority of the natural calving females would be heifers with only the top performing females staying on the ranch to become donors for the ET program. These heifers would be synchronized and bred AI in groups with about 98 percent of all Vintage calves being sired by AI bulls.

A balanced selection process is used for the females with a goal of balancing as many traits as possible in the top 25 percent of the breed without losing fertility, longevity and soundness. Vintage is also using DNA results for marbling and tenderness in their selection process. Sire selection is greatly assisted with the use of the American Angus Sire Summary. Using the summary in conjunction with the computer, they can effectually select the proven sires that will move their program forward in all areas.

All bull and heifer calves born in the spring calving season are weaned on pasture in August with the dams returning to the dry land foothill ranch near La Grange, while the calves remain on pasture. The bull calves are shipped to the feeding facility in October and are put on feed for the first time. The bulls are started on a 120-day feed test in mid-November that is designed for a three pound-per-day gain on a high roughage diet. After the test any bull not achieving the three pound gain is culled from our Annual Bull Sale with the belief that all sale bulls should be superior performers. All females are developed and bred on the hill ranch unless they are designated for the October Female Production Sale in which case they are weaned in August and fed to be in optimum condition for the fall sale.

Vintage Angus Ranch hosts two production sales in the fall of the year. The Carcass Maker Bull Sale on the third Friday of

September and Annual Female sale the second Sunday of October. Each year, Vintage markets about 130 Angus bulls through the bull sale, with bulls selling to purebred and commercial producers. The Annual Female Sale routinely consists of 75 lots of Angus females.

2004 Commercial Producer of the Year

Jack Ranch, located 30 miles east of Paso Robles near Cholame, is the **CBCIA's 2004 Commercial Producer of the Year**. **Hearst Corporation** purchased Jack Ranch in the mid-1960s and **Sonny and Roxanna Sanders** manage the 2,500 fall-calving cow operation, which also runs seasonal stockers. The ranch runs primarily Angus-cross cows and markets through Western Video Market's (WVM) annual April sale and has also marketed cattle privately.

The operation strives to raise top quality high grading beef cattle through improved genetics and best husbandry practices. Through bull selection, the Sanders raised the percentage of Choice calf crop from 38 percent to 87 percent over a two-year period. The team's goal is to utilize ranch acreage to maximum its potential by developing native grasses, permanent pasture acreage and water sources.

Jack Ranch uses CattleMax software and all animals are identified by tag and tattoo. Hearst Corporation's main office in San Francisco handles the financials.

Angus-cross fall-calving cows are bred each year to registered Angus bulls, and this fall Horned Hereford bulls were added to their bull battery as well. The first group of females bred AI to registered Angus bulls for the 2003 season at Jack Ranch included 100 cows and 115 heifers. Saunders plan to breed 300 head AI for the 2004 season.

Jack Ranch calves have topped the April Western Video Sale for their weight and class of calves for the past five years. In 2003, they sold their calves weaned for the first time for record prices – weaning and selling in April and shipping in June. They sell classified WVM natural beef and the weaners receive boosters for 4-way, 7-way and Pasturella. The calves are turned onto swathed and windrowed forage hay for fenceline weaning next to dam for the 45-day period prior to shipping.