

2018 Ia Angus Seedstock Producer of the Year - Hickory Knoll Angus



Congratulations to Gary Eichorn and family on receiving the 2018 Seedstock Producer of the Year. Here is a little write up detailing Gary's operation.

For almost as long as I can remember, Angus cattle have been a way of life. I purchased my first Angus heifer, sired by Prince of Lakewood, at the 1949 Lakewood Dispersion Sale. My second female came shortly after when I purchased a female sired by Bell Boy A16 at the 1951 Hawkeye Angus Sale. While these were my first two Angus cows, my family's ties to the Business Breed date all the way back to 1912 when my grandfather purchased his first Angus females. I ran the herd in cooperation with my father, Stanley Eichhorn, for many years. I have continually built and evaluated my Angus herd through the years with a focus on performance. This focus has driven my success selling bulls throughout Iowa and the Midwest where I have developed lasting relationships and kept repeat customers satisfied throughout the years.

My family Angus operation has been based from a 250-acre farm purchased by my father and I in 1962. We named the farm Hickory Knoll Angus and have been producing seedstock from the farm just North of Tipton for over 50 years. Our cropland is leased to neighboring crop farmers and we have rented pasture in the area for many years. On an annual basis we average 15 bull and 5 heifer calves sold while maintaining 40-50 cows.

I began to A.I. cattle as soon as the Angus Association allowed A.I. cattle to be registered. I have used many bulls over the years and while some have not been successful, many more have been a great success. I have always enjoyed seeing the results of the previous year's A.I. choices when walking through the calf crop after weaning. It is this continual progression towards the goal of improving the herd each year that keeps me researching and trying to pair the ideal sires with my herd cows.

Prior to using A.I. I used the following sires naturally: Blue Boy of Glen Mar, Bell Boy A 16, Eastlawn Eileenmere 64, grandson of Eileenmere 999-35, son of Eileenmere 935, son of Grieman's Guardsman, Le&Be Bell Boy 224, Burger of Lakewood 156, Sun Up Barrier Breaker E8, Sun Up Barrier Breaker A182, Sun Up Barrier Breaker 22P, Wilton's Byergos 5, Salem's Chap Line Backer 0130, Hickory Knoll Marshall 496 and Hickory Knoll Viking 1219. The last bull I purchased was in 1981 and I have since used A.I. with our own sires performing cleanup for those cows that didn't settle. With exception of a few females being added over the years I have operated a closed female herd. Females added to the herd over the years have included: three from Lloyd Guyer of Penn's Revolution breeding in the 1950s; heifers from Ronald Spear, Eastlawn Angus, and 20 originating from Ronald Spear from a dispersion in Kansas bred to Lamington Jingo 19 in the 1960s; a Powerizer cow bred to Marriot from a Don Grace dispersion and a Benoit Angus Stacker daughter bred to 1483 in the 1990s; in the early 2000s a cow from the Blackcap line was added from the Ben Lawson dispersion in Wyoming; in the past five years a few females have been added to the herd including SCC Contractor, Renovator and Rampage daughters.

I take great pride in my Angus cattle and they have been my life over the years, but I also take pride in all the Angus memorabilia I have collected over the years. I have collected Angus journals that date back to the 1912's and have almost every Angus journal from 1936 to the present. I also have some sale catalogs that date back from 1928 to present. My collection of Angus memorabilia is as special to me as my Angus cattle.