

2007 WNAF

Dedicated to Jim and Sue Coleman

The 55th Western National Angus Futurity is dedicated to long time WNAF and Angus supporters Jim and Sue Coleman, Modesto, CA. For years, the Colemans have been enthusiastic supporters of the Angus breed, youth activities, state and local associations, the WNAF, the Western States Angus Auxiliary and the Western States Angus Association. The Colemans were honored on April 29 during the WNAF Female Show for their many years of assistance and support.

Jim Coleman's interest in cattle was sparked by his uncle, Herb Coleman, on his many visits as a boy to his uncle's Jersey dairy. He was a leading dairyman in Oregon and was president of the Oregon Jersey Association. There was something noble and special about his work, and that instilled a set of values Jim keeps today.

In later years of Jim's business career, an opportunity arose for him to have his own herd of cattle and to rediscover that farming was in his blood.

Two of Jim's four sons, Greg and Brad, worked one summer on a commercial Angus ranch where his family's company conducted feed experiments. They came home to return to high school and said to their dad, "We should have some Angus cattle around our home ranch." Jim said, "If you build the fence, I will buy the Angus cows." So he thanks his two oldest sons for getting him started in the Angus business.

The boys then persuaded him to go to Ankony Angus in Loyalton, CA, to buy some cows. This was an important milestone because it led to the friendship of Mac Cropsey and Armand Hammer and the purchase of four females from their first sale in 1976 and the real beginning of Vintage Angus.

During the following years, Jim learned the importance of cow families and all the important aspects of breeding Angus cattle from these men, along with Bob Long and Chuck Graff. Two of the most important cow families from the Ankony herd are still represented in Vintage's exceptional list of donor cows.

As Jim's sons grew past the junior projects, his next two sons, Ted and Tim, took up the helm and spurred the program along into the 1980s. The boys attended many local and national shows with numerous champions to their credit, thanks to people like Wendy Hall and Mark Richardson. During these years, the Vintage herd increased in size and quality and started their annual female production sale in the fall of 1987. It wasn't until Jim decided to expand from a regional to a national program and to reach out for a nationally known manager that the next major milestone was achieved.

Jim hired Doug Worthington as manager of Vintage Angus in 1989. Doug's beef cattle experience, particularly Angus cattle, spans over a lifetime of involvement, as he was raised in a family heavily committed to the business. His dad Roger managed Angus operations, and Doug learned the ropes over the years helping out with all phases of running a purebred operation. Impressively, in 1985 he won the American Angus Association's 1985 National Herdsman Award. Vintage has benefited greatly from teaming up Doug's Angus mind with the best business mind of Jim's to make an unbeatable combination. The results speak for themselves.

During the 1990s, the cow herd increased to 400 cows

with constant gains in quality, proven donors and superior cow families with predictable bloodlines. In the early 1990s, the ET program was expanded, and its breeding program was one of the first in the country to demand improved carcass quality by selecting only sires that had positive marbling and ribeye EPDs. As a result, the herd average shows five generations of carcass-tested cattle in their pedigree. This achievement and proven ability to produce superior bulls set the stage for their first bull sale in 1994 at their new 5,000-acre Sierra foothill ranch in La Grange. Those commercial cattlemen who got behind a premium quality beef program or an alliance found the Vintage range bulls a perfect fit to meet the high carcass specifications. The demand for range bulls with high carcass traits has made their September Carcass Maker Bull Sale one of the best in the West.

Jim's sales rank in the top each year across the country because purebred breeders and commercial cattlemen like the improvement they get and the profitable gains they make. This is a result of knowing the genetics of the herd and the ability to use the latest technology. Customers like the fact that each female and bull lot have been DNA tested for all the latest markers since 2003 when they were the first sale in the country to report it.

Jim's breeding program is the pursuit of "Ultimate Angus Genetics." Its target is to create genetics that are complete and have total performance. It's been based on building a herd of great females from top cow families that produce range bulls that can deliver the highest quality at the meat counter. Jim believes that the quality of his cowherd

is among the top in the breed.

Getting to where VAR is today would not have been possible without the help of a lot of good people. First, Jim's special thanks go out to his top notch team. Doug, Doug's family Roger and Brad, Jason Judge, and Matt Myers. They have been the backbone of the program. Jim says he can't find enough words of praise for the excellent work they do and all their accomplishments. In the early years, he was pleased to discover the outstanding friendship qualities of Angus people and their willingness to lend a hand and offer good advice. Over the 30 years, the list has grown long of those who helped and cooperated even in the smallest ways to contribute to their success. Jim wants to thank every one of them formally here because their kind and thoughtful support is greatly appreciated and will always be remembered. Last but not least he thanks everyone in his family for all their support and cooperation through the years, especially his wife Sue.

Having the outstanding help of a lot of good people, a strong commitment, and being persistent year in and year out despite continual change has been the cornerstone to the success of VAR.

Jim has always been a big supporter of Angus activities. Serving on the Western States Board in the 90's, Jim has also donated females to be sold in the benefit of the Angus Auxiliary and the National Junior Angus Show. In 2006, Jim hosted over 300 Angus breeders at his Modesto home for "The Magic of the Vine" event, a fund raising event for the Angus Foundation and is now honorary co-chairman of the national campaign. Jim believes in the future of the Angus breed and that investing in the foundation's education, youth and research programs will make the Angus future a bright one.

