

North Carolina Angus Association Annual Spring Tours, Day 1

A sure sign of spring in North Carolina is our annual tours. 2008 tours were in the eastern part of the state. Tour planners Russell and Brenda Vinson and Randy and Beth Jones did a terrific job of lining up good places to see both registered and commercial cattle, excellent speakers and lots of good food.

We began our tour with lunch provided by the Russell Wood family, Cedar Bay Farms of Willow Spring. Russell, Elaine and the family are not just producers of Angus cattle; they also raise hogs and goats. The family shows cattle, hogs and goats and has won a wall full of ribbons for their dedication. Lunch was a wonderful home cooked meal of fried chicken, BBQ and all the trimmings; topped off by an array of delicious desserts. A special thank you to the Wood family for their hospitality.

WCC Updated S152, son of EXAR New Look 2971 was on display. He was Reserve Division Champion at the 2007 Indiana State Fair, Grand Champion Angus Bull at the 2007 North Carolina State Fair, and third in class at the 2007 NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky. He is owned by Cedar Bay Farms.

Donors were on display from Cedar Bay Farms, Castalia Cattle Company and Karl and Cortney Holshouser. Several of these females are daughters of the WCC Special Design L309 who had won numerous awards at the North Carolina State fair in 2006 and 2007.

Also on display was a Bon View New Design 878 daughter that was the 2005 North Carolina Angus Association Spring Fever Heifer Futurity winner. By her side was her daughter that placed 3rd at NAILE.

Karl and Cortney had a GAR Expectation 4915 daughter there who was the 2005 Supreme Champion female at the Rowan County Fair in 2005 and also the Grand Champion Female at the 2005 Dixie Classic Fair in Winston Salem.

Ron Hughes, Extension Agent from Johnston County spoke to us on fly control. His main message was to treat cattle year round for flies to keep them under control; don't wait until they are out of control to start. When

you consider the cattle loss in weight gain because of fly population, treatment is well worth the money.

Face flies around the eyes on cattle are the main cause of pinkeye. Flies move from area to area and transfer the bacteria as they move. They live in the manure and over-winter in the droppings in the pasture; come spring they are already in the pasture ready to begin their cycle again. Another recommendation is to clean up around your hay rings and any area where there is piled up manure and spread it out for fertilizer and break up the fly bed.

Mr. Hughes talked about several methods of fly control: fly tags (immunity seems to be a problem here, the first year you get good control, but if you don't change chemicals every year you get an immunity build up); dust bags/oilers and pour-ons (fairly good control). The main thing is to treat year round and keep them under control.

We met at the Steak Barn in Kinston for supper provided by Fort Dodge Animal Health. Garland Parker, area sales representative introduced Dr. Mac Devin a Fort Dodge Field Veterinary who spoke on Parasites and Bio Security. We certainly appreciate their hospitality.

Dr. Devin spoke on the value of deworming. Spring deworming always pays!! It gets the cattle off to a good start and with the drought conditions we've all experienced in 2007 we need all the help we can get in weight gains. He recommended that we deworm our calves before we vaccinate them so their bodies will be in better health condition to utilize the vaccine.

He also spoke on reproductive diseases and a vaccination program. We talked about the importance of yearly boosters for our brood cattle. The better health the cow is, the better immunity she will pass along to her calves. He stressed that when we assist in the delivery of a calf to work with the calf until you're sure it has nursed and received the colostrums to give it the immunity he needs.

We finished off the evening by celebrating the birthday of Kay Byrum of Gates. Everyone was off to the motel for a good nights rest and looking forward to a very full day on Saturday beginning @ 7:30 a.m.

