

Newsletter

South Carolina Angus Association News

Sharon Furr

November and December 2015

I'm smelling cotton candy, funnel cakes, candy apples, burgers and sausage dog. I'm hearing the sound of children laughing, and music playing, and bells ringing out, the place is a buzz with people, and here I am, right in the thick of it.

It was about 6:45 am when I pulled out of the driveway Friday morning on my way to the S.C. State Fair. I was to be at the Cattle Barn at lot 5, before 8:00 am, to start my day of excitement with the judging of the Junior Angus showmanship and then with all the Open Classes for Angus cattle. When I pulled into the lot, it was packed with young people, and parents, and cows, and bulls, all being washed and clipped and groomed for their time in the ring. I went right to work talking with folks and children, and looking at the cattle, and taking pictures, and then onto the big event, showmanship in the ring. It was a wonderful couple of days. Below you will find the highlights from the two day event, plus you might just see some familiar faces as well. Enjoy!

Some people I know and love are just exceptional, a cut above the rest – I know so many of you know Ms. Evelyn Edmunds – but many of you reading this article may not know her! So here's just a wonderful little recap of her, her amazing life, and her being honored with the Order of the Palmetto – she is just amazing and is an amazing Angus producer - Enjoy!

About a week ago, I called Ms. Evelyn Edmunds an Angus cattle producer friend of mine, to see if I could come by and just sit and chat with her about being honored with the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto Award. Gov. Nikki Haley recently awarded Ms. Evelyn the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina. Just so you know the Order of the Palmetto is given for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance. Of course she said I could, and so off I went, excited to get the chance to interview my friend, someone I cared ever so deeply for, someone who I thought oh so much of, someone who had, in the beginning of my cattle career, given me a lot of great advice and help, and been my friend in return, someone who had been given one of the highest awards in the state of South Carolina, I was going to see, woo-hoo!

I pulled up at her beautiful Circle E Farms in Clover, S.C. and immediately she and the dogs greeted me with open arms, and hugs, and licks. We went and sat on the back porch and looked out across her vast beautiful farm, and just talked and laughed and discussed everything from cattle, to politics, to people, to religion and God, to her life and mine, and how we had so many

things in common. We talked about her receiving the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto Award and what that meant to her, and how it made her feel, and then we talked just about her!

I must tell you, I have always thought so much of Ms. Evelyn. She is a strong woman, a tough woman, a man really to tell you the truth, most people don't want to hear that but you have to be that in the cattle business, for respect especially. If you're not, folks will just walk all over you. Not only is she strong and tough, but she's earned a reputation for having unbelievable work ethics, and raised all six of her children with those same beliefs. She is a pioneer in so many things, but she doesn't want any of the lime light or any of the glory for it, her comment to me was just this, "I didn't do any of it for recognition, I didn't do any of it because I thought I might get an award, I did it cause I liked it". "We did it because we had too, I did it for the children, and then other children wanted to be a part of what we were doing, we all enjoyed it".

You see she and her husband started farming and raising turkeys back in 1950, then as the years went on, they had six children. Back then they had one big brooder house for turkeys and fenced off pastures. "Back then", as she tells it, "they were kinda free range, once you moved 'em out of the brooder house, you moved them onto pastures til time to go to market". As far as farming and the family everything was just moving along, when in 1970 her husband had a heart attack and left her with the six children, three still at home, and 4500 turkey hens on the pasture ready to go to market - November cold was coming in quickly, but she did manage with the help of friends to get the hens up and to market and from that point forward she took over the farm and the business and it has grown ever since. Then she added, "Sharon, I didn't have time to grieve, I didn't have time to think about anything, I had work that had to be done". I wanted to cry for her, but not because she was sad, but because she was such an extraordinary woman, so unbelievable, so matter of fact, so in total control!

She's come a long way since 1970, sheer grit, hard work, and sweat and tears, but she's made it. She's served as commissioner for the York County Soil and Water Conservation for 19 years, she's worked countless years and hours with juniors in 4H, Scouts, and American Angus. She's taught Kindergarten, she's started and led the way for juniors all over the state of South Carolina to begin showing and fitting cattle all over the country, with the SCJNA. She's taught horse riding lessons, she's worked with the SCCA and the SC Farm Bureau, and she's been an enormous inspiration for women in agriculture all over, especially me!

At 86 years old, she reminded me real quick that she really wasn't 87 years old and that her birthday wasn't for another couple weeks, she's still running Circle E and the cattle side of the operation, she loves her Angus cattle, and that her son Wesley runs the turkey operation side of the business, J.W. Edmunds and Sons, an operation that once started out at 4500 turkeys and one brooder house has now grown to 84,000 turkeys growing out every eight weeks and six more brooders houses.

She told me at the end of our time together, "Now Sharon, don't draw this all out and make it real long, if you must write about it make it short, cause you know I'm not a front page kinda girl, I'm a back page kinda girl"!

Ms. Evelyn you're one of a kind, you're truly a gem, and yes you are a front page kinda girl! I love you Ms. Evelyn, thank you so much - CONGRATULATIONS!

It's always wonderful to go to Kevin and Lydia Yon's beautiful Ridge Springs Farm for their sales. Saturday was no exception to the rule. A wonderful time was had by all, the buyers turned out in force, the weather was just phenomenal, the hospitality was awesome, the food and entertainment was so great, but the females and bulls offered up at this sale were just beautiful and gentle and I was so glad to be able to attend once again. Lydia's update on this Yon Fall Bull and Female sale held on Saturday, Oct. 31st is below: The 2015 Yon Family Farms Fall Bull and Female sale was held in Ridge Spring, SC on October 31 on a beautiful fall day. Cattle producers from all over the Southeast attended the weekend events, which began with a BBQ dinner on Friday night sponsored by Zoetis and Geneseek. After dinner Dr. Dan Moser, President of Angus Genetics, Inc., gave a very informative presentation on Bull Selection, followed by an excellent question and answer session.

Sale day began with a sunny start and bluegrass music in the background as prospective buyers went through the cattle. A highlight of the event was the sale of three sale features, which were creamed out of the Yon's two-year-old pairs and offered as donor prospects. Lot 1, a full sister to the ABS Sire, Yon Future Force Z77, was the high seller of the day and went to Pine View Farms in Garber, IA for \$26,000. Lots 2 and 3 both were selected by Mountain View Ranch in Morristown, TN for \$20,000 and \$19,000 respectively. Lot 2 was a full sister to the ABS bull, Yon Profit Driven B228 and Lot 3 was from the proven and profitable Sarah cow family.

Twenty-two Angus Fall Pairs were the next females offered and demanded a strong \$6136 average price. Lot 5 was the high selling pair and was selected by Mark Montgomery from Elizabeth, AR, for \$10,500. Olson Cattle Research, Barnwell, SC, chose Lot 4 at \$10,000 as the second high pair. Thirty-two bred Angus cows sold for an average of \$3652 with Lindsey Grimes, Hillsboro, OH, paying top dollar for Lot 52, a beautiful daughter of Yon Future Focus T219. Oak Hill Farm, Six Mile, SC, selected Lot 53, a Pathfinder and donor dam at \$5000 as the second high selling bred cow. Angus bred heifers were also popular and twenty-one heifers averaged \$3512. SSS Farms in Crouse, NC, choose the top bred heifer, Lot 100 at \$5000. Eleven weaned, open heifers, sold at the side of their dams for an average of \$2936, with the top open heifer, Lot 40A, a daughter of PA Power Tool, going to William Sexton in Wooster, OH for \$4000.

SimAngus females were also offered with 8 fall pairs averaging \$4688. The top female was a blaze-faced standout, Lot 29, selected by Strickland Farms, Glennville, GA for \$7250. Bred SimAngus cows averaged \$3014 and three bred SimAngus heifers averaged \$5083, with Shady Lane Cattle Co, Vienna, GA choosing Lot 78 as the top for \$6500.

Next it was bull sale time and as always the seats were full as the buyers slugged it out for their top choices. The high selling Angus two-year old was Lot 110 at \$15,000 to Carolina Cattle Co., in Penrose, NC. Lovett Farms in Cuthbert, GA, chose the second high, Lot 105, at \$11,500. Third high at \$9000 was Lot 117 and he sold to 4S Farms in Geraldine, AL. The 70 Angus coming two-year-old bulls averaged \$5821, while 10 SimAngus averaged a solid \$6875. Ten coming two-year-old Ultrablacks sold for an average of \$3750.

There were plenty of Long Yearling Angus bulls to choose from and the favorite of the day, Lot 180, went to Apple Tuck Farms, Bradley, SC for \$10,500. Close behind was Lot 172, to Poling Angus Farm in Phillipi, WV at \$10,000. Deering Ridge Farms, Kenna, WV chose Lot 176 at \$9000 to round out the top three. A total of 107 long yearling Angus bulls averaged \$4764. The thirteen long yearling SimAngus bulls sold for an average of \$3992.

Cattle sold into twelve states, including MS, TX, AL, GA, TN, NC, SC, FL, WV, AR, OH, and KY. DV Auction was on hand to broadcast the sale live on the internet for bidders unable to attend the sale. Wes Weeks manned the phone lines, and Mike Jones and Darren Carter split up the auctioneering duties. The normal crew of neighbors, family, former interns, current and former employees kept everything running smoothly during sale weekend. You are all invited to the 26th Annual Performance Tested Bull and Female Sale scheduled for February 20, 2016.

Congratulation to you Kevin Yon on your recent election as American Angus Association Treasurer. Kevin has served as president of the South Carolina Angus Association and South Carolina Cattlemen's Association. Thank you guys so much for everything you've done and everything you've given to the Angus breed, and especially everything you've done here in the state of South Carolina!

In the American Angus News:

The American Angus Association announced new members and officers elected to its Board of Directors during the 132nd Annual Convention of Delegates in Overland Park, Kan.

Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont., was elected the new Association President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Charlie Boyd, Mays Lick, Ky., was elected by delegates to serve as Association Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Kevin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C., was elected by delegates to serve as the 2015-2016 Association Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Those serving the Association for three-year Director Terms are: James Coffey of Hustonville, Ky.; Chuck Grove of Forest, Va.; Mike McCravy of Bowdon, Ga.; Don Schiefelbein of Kimball, Minn.; and Mick Varilek of Geddes, S.D.

Here's an update from our roving reporter Ms. Windy Bartee, as she hangs out in Kansas with Mr. Ted for the American Angus Association Annual Convention: Annual Convention News by Windy Bartee, reporting in from Overland Park, Kansas -

This is your roving reporter in Overland Park, Kansas reporting from the Angus Conference and The American Angus Annual meeting at the Overland Park Conference Center on November 2-5, 2015.

Today the candidates gave their talks. Only five of the ten running will be elected tomorrow. I was impressed with the quality of the candidates running. They are all motivated to improve the breed and the organization for the future. Better Angus will produce better food supply for the increasing world population.

Yesterday the emphasis was on the technology and analysis of the genomes. A genome is the map of the double helix that contains all the genes. Richard Resnick worked on the Human Genome Project under Eric Lander. His insight into the use of technology especially in the science of the genome was fascinating. Technology is now able to detect the piece of the genome that needs to be sniped out to produce an animal without the defect or without the inclination for a disease. It might be used in the future to produce an animal that survives better in a certain environment, such as for heat resistance or high altitudes. This gives tremendous possibilities for the future of the breed as the technology advances.

Interestingly, some speakers had nothing to do with Angus. “Brand Building” was the Ken Schmidt’s topic. Ken Schmidt worked with Harley-Davidson of Milwaukee to help restore the company and increase sales. Brand building was the focus of his talk. The point is to get people to recognize your brand, i.e. Angus, CAB and your own cattle brand. Your customer needs to feel you care about him and his needs. Your approach should be to focus on the customer, not yourself.

The educational meetings today focused on technology to promote your cattle and improvement of the Angus through health, environment, breeding using data and technology. The title for this portion of the conference is Angus University.

During this time the American Angus Auxiliary is conducting the selection of Miss American Angus. The five finalist were interviewed today and later presented their speeches before the three judges and any others who wanted to attend. Their speeches were inspiring and impressive. Claudia Hisson, from Pennsylvania, quoted Cory Watt in her speech; “Do your best and let God do the rest.” We lost Cory Watt in February 2015, an outstanding young Angus leader from Iva, SC. He served as president of the National Junior Angus Association. His faith and courage left an indelible impression on all who knew him during his battle with cancer.

This year the numbers registered for the conference exceeded the numbers from last year which was the first year. Next year this conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 5-7, 2016 and then in 2017 Fort Worth, Texas will host the conference on November 4-6, 2017.

Let’s don’t forget now is the time to nominate your cattle for the 45th Annual Carolina Futurity Sale - March 19th, 2016 @ T. Ed. Garrison Livestock Arena, Clemson University – Clemson, S.C. If you’re interested in getting your cattle nominated please contact Ken Brubaker @ 540.908.5799 or ken@brubakersales.com – or Steve McPhail @ 864.978.6358 or stevemcphail@windstream.net

Also, once again this year for our 45th SCAA Futurity, we will be celebrating our banquet at the Clemson Outdoor Lab, 415 Charlie White Trail - Pendleton, SC 29670

Can't wait – so mark your calendars for March 18th and 19th. and come be a part of such an awesome night and sale the next day!

Also, I have blocked a set of rooms at the Hotel Tillman, formerly the Sleep Inn, on a first come first serve basis, the rate for SCAA Members will be: \$81.00 – you have until February 18th to book at this rate. It has been fully renovated and is very nice. Hotel Tillman (864) 643-2070 - 1303 Tiger Blvd., Clemson, SC 29631 (Formerly Sleep Inn) Free breakfast with your stay. Also, if you prefer not to stay at the Tillman, here are a few others options for you: Hampton Inn Clemson 1 855-271-3622 - 851 Tiger Boulevard, Clemson, SC 29631 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Clemson – Univ. Area - 1 877-859-5095 - 1381 Tiger Boulevard, Clemson, SC 29631

So much has been happening I feel like I just might just have missed something. The days have been great, but with this new daylight savings time, I hate it. The mornings come early and the darkness and nighttime comes even earlier. Winter is fast approaching us!

If you need to reach me, or if you have something cool to share with me, or if you have any great pictures from any event you have been to, please don't hesitate to call me, or text me, or email me – I'd love to hook up with you. Don't forget too, if you haven't paid already, SCAA dues are \$20 for one year, so just send a check to: SCAA, c/o Sharon Furr - Secretary, 2049 Boyd Road, Blackstock, SC 29014.

Contact information: home: **803-385-6958** / cell: **704.577.3639** — spanishoaks@truvista.net

I can't wait to see you on the road, but until then.....



PEACE



LOVE



COW

Sharon