

South Carolina Angus Association News

Sharon Furr

August and September 2015

Can you believe it, another month has come and gone, and still, yeap you got it — NO RAIN!

The fields and pastures around us are struggling, and every inch of ground we have is being used for cows. It's become a weekly ritual to move mothers and babies, and girls and bulls to a different piece of ground, not ground that is lush with grasses, but just a new piece of ground, one that by chance might have a little growth on it. We took a leap of faith getting into Agriculture.....sometimes I wonder, what was I thinking?!

I told you last month there'd be more to come on the Hall's, their farm, and their livelihood, so let me tell you a little bit about my beautiful time spent with them.

It was about two o'clock on a Monday afternoon, I pulled into the Bush-N-Vine, in the little town of York, S.C., to chat with Bob and Sam. The place was bustling with customers, young women were running beans through a bean sheller, Bob was meeting with different vendors on different bedding materials for use in the fields — crates and crates of watermelons sat ready and waiting for sale, it was a beautiful sight; a thriving farm, a family making it in agriculture, especially a South Carolina Angus family!

Bob started off by telling me the history of their farm. The farm that the Bush-N-Vine sits on now, was originally his Great Uncle's farm, which was purchased back in 1917. They farmed peaches, oats, and cattle, and believe it or not, but the original peach packing shed is still being used today. Bob's daddy, John Hall was a land surveyor by trade, but he really was the families driving force as far as getting them into Angus. Though Bob's daddy John had a 'real job', he still farmed on the side, and raised five children at the original farm just about a mile up the road from here on Hwy 161. Bob remembers growing up with his three brothers and 4H being a big part of their lives. They as a family, just enjoyed agriculture. As the years went by the children got more and more involved with Angus, and Bobs says, "We became real good friends with the Edmunds". And then in the late 60's the SCJA started, so we began showing cows, and that's where they met Paul Boyd, and as Bob tells it, "He was another great influence on our lives". Bob's daddy John participated in some of the first Clemson Bull test, and the boys showed cattle all the way through their high school years.

Bob then went off to Clemson and studied Horticulture with his emphasis being on the Fruits and Vegetables end. He then graduated, came back home to York, asked his Aunts if he could start farming the land on this site, and in 1980 his farming career would officially begin. He raised five children here and all of them grew up about the same way as Bob, farming and showing Angus cattle. Right about now is where Sam, Bob's middle son, who works the farm with Bob 365 days' a year, started to share with me his prospective on their farming lives and their farming practices. "We like Angus cows', he said, "but everything that is tillable land here, we plant". "We are not grass farmers, we raise fruits and vegetables", "The cows, they're a side thing now, with the exception of our fresh



grass and grain fed Angus beef that we sale right off the farm, we have a high demand for that at slaughter”. He then went on to tell me about all that they do in a year’s time and everything that they raise in a calendar year, here on the farm. No wonder they hardly have any time for the cow herd now, what they do, well it was mind boggling. They farm peaches, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries, along with pumpkins, corn, tomatoes, squash, okra, broccoli, beans and cucumbers. As far as their calendar year, it’s a constant 365 days a year when it comes to strawberries. Both Bob and Sam tell me the Bush-N-Vine, is best known for its strawberries, so they pretty much grow them all year long. Bob said, “We start sticking little tiny shoots July 15th, they will begin to grow a root system, and then we will plant the last week of August first week of September for strawberries to pick/eat starting in October all the way through the month of December and even a little bit into January”. “Berries are ready again for picking the month of April and we stop picking the week of July fourth”. “If we’re not growing them in the field, we’re growing them in the tunnels — a non-heated long running type greenhouse - people love winter strawberries”. They also went on to tell me that they have fresh tomatoes pretty much from May through the end of November, which is a wonderful thing in my opinion, cause I just love a fresh tomato sandwich loaded down with Dukes mayonnaise!

Sam continued to talk to me and tell me about his years in SCJA, and memories about all the good times he had with Ray and John Petty, and being with Ms. Windy and Mr. Ted on the road coming and going to shows. “We did everything from Eastern Regionals, to State Fairs, to County Fairs, to Junior Beef Round Up, you name it”, Sam continued. Sam has started a wonderful program in the last five years called CSA, which stands for Community Supported Agriculture. It’s a yearly program you can sign up for which supplies you with fresh produce and fruits all year long from their farm. You can sign up for one season or all of the seasons. Whatever is growing at the time, is exactly what you’ll find in your basket – and it will be full of a wonderful assortment, you can count on that. They also have two different roadside markets, one in Rock Hill, and one at Lake Wylie, for your convenience as well. You can always contact Bob and or Sam at the farm at: 803.684.2732, or by email at: samuel@bushvinefarm.com or www.bushvinefarm.com

With the exception of Sam who lives right here on the farm, and Ben the oldest, who lives right up the road at the old home-place, everybody else lives in different parts of South Carolina, from Greenville, to Charleston, to Manetta, so not only is the family farm very diversified, but so is the Hall family. At the end of our conversation Bod said something that I just love, he said, “Working with animals, well it teaches you life skills”. I thought to myself, ‘yes, Bob it does’.

Angus cattle, well that’s in their blood, but fruits and vegetables, that’s their livelihood. I had thoroughly enjoyed my time with Bob and Sam, but it was time to get on the road and get back to the house, so I filled up my bags with some wonderful fresh fruits and produce and off I went. But don’t worry, I will be back!

DON'T FORGET:

The 2016 33rd Annual Edisto Forage Bull Test Entry Information and forms are available on line now - if you have any interest in taking part in this, contact Scott Sell, Area Extension Agent/EBT Coordinator or go to:

www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/beef/bulltests-efbt/



Next on the agenda was the National Junior Angus Show, held in Tulsa Oklahoma, which to hear everybody talk about it, was just awesome with some of our very own Juniors and others receiving wonderful awards and high honors. Check out the highlights below:

2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Awards Ceremony

Tulsa, Oklahoma

		
<p>Corbin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C., received the Vance Uden Memorial Scholarship at the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Awards Ceremony, July 17 in Tulsa, Okla. Pictured from left are Connie Uden, presenting; Sally Yon, accepting the award on Corbin's behalf; and Dru Uden, presenting. Photo by Carrie Horsley, American Angus Association.</p>	<p>Carly Watt, Iva, S.C., center, received the first-ever Cory Watt Memorial Scholarship at the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Awards Ceremony, July 17 in Tulsa, Okla. Pictured presenting the award are Jody Watt, left, and Rebecca Watt, right. Photo by Pearls Pics on behalf of the American Angus Association.</p>	<p>Taylor Gazda, Athens, Ga., left, received the first C.L. Cook Angus Scholarship at the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Awards Ceremony, July 17 in Tulsa, Okla. Presenting the award is C.L. Cook, right. Photo by Carrie Horsley, American Angus Association.</p>

South Carolina Junior Angus had a wonderful, wonderful time at the Junior Beef Round Up, here are just some of the unbelievable Angus highlights!

2015 SC JR. Beef Round-Up — Clemson, South Carolina

	
<p>Jared Carnes, Iva- Won Grand Champion Angus Heifer. CWF Elba W118 B110 is a September heifer and was also named calf champion. Jared also won the Intermediate sales talk division, the \$1000 SC Autism scholarship that is sponsored by the Gary Vickery Family of Anderson, SC. Jared also placed 1st in his showmanship class..</p>	<p>Kaylen Ryan, Fair Play- Won Reserve Champion Angus Heifer. Stillwater Burgess A22 is an October heifer and was also selected as reserve calf champion and then won Grand Champion Bred & Owned honors.</p>

LeAnn Harward, Richfield, NC- Won reserve champion bred & owned heifer. HS Miss Key B1 is a January 2014 heifer.

Allison Harmon, Leesville- Won the reserve champion senior sales talk contest. She also won the AgSouth Scholarship.

Ben Black, Jonesville- Won the champion intermediate division with Spanish Oaks Alice. She's a June 2014 heifer.

Lindsey Scott, Lexington- won the reserve champion intermediate division with YON Witch C05. She is an August 2014 heifer.

Mattie Harward, Richfield, NC- won the Junior Champion division with Cherry Knoll Ark Pride 1422. She is a March 2014 heifer.

LeAnn Harward, Richfield, NC- won the reserve junior champion division with HS Miss Key B12. She is January 2014 heifer.

Wyatt Kendall, Magnolia, NC- won the senior champion division with PCF Julie Pendleton 308. She is an October 2013 heifer.

Thomas Harvey, Starr, SC- won the reserve senior champion division with Miss Deborah. She is an October 2013 heifer.

Mark Duffell, Whitestone Farm, Aldie, Va judged 26 angus heifers. Five of these 26 were in the Bred & Owned show.

Also, Ben Black won 1st. place in his age division on the Cattleman's Contest at Jr. Beef where they test the youth's general knowledge of cattle and Baylie Black won the Jr. Beef Ambassador Contest and will be promoting the beef industry throughout the year. She will compete at Nationals next September.





Something very special that happened at Junior Beef Round Up this year, was a presentation of two handmade quilts. The round-up committee along with the tremendous help from Wayne Gentry of Iva, SC dug deep into their closets and pulled out all their old Jr. Beef Round-Up t-shirts and had them sewn together into a quilt. The center of the quilt was this year's shirt which had a "CW" on the animal within the round up logo. The Watt Family of Iva, SC was presented with a handmade T-Shirt quilt, and a second quilt was presented to The Jarrard Family of Iva, SC in memory of Daniel. Daniel and Cory were best friends. Daniel showed with SCJAA. These quilts were trimmed in Clemson orange. Dr. Matthew Burns of Clemson University and Wayne Gentry presented the quilts to both families. \$700 of donations was then collected and this money will be placed into a scholarship fund in memory of Daniel and Cory.



Clinton Mobley, Clover SC participated in his first Angus show ever at the 2015 Round-Up. He purchased an October heifer calf (OHF Alexis Prophet 61) from Danny Winchester through the SC Angus Futurity in March. Thank you to Danny and to John Petty for getting this wonderful family involved in Angus!



Clinton Crocke of Crystalyx, one of our South Carolina Angus members, set up a booth at the Round Up.

In the next month to come, I will riding the road in search of folks who have hay and folks who need hay. In next months' article and on our website: www.scangus.org - I will be able to inform all of you of who to call on if you are in need of hay or if you have an overabundance of hay. Send me an email or call me if you have hay or know of someone who does.

As I leave you I'm still upbeat with our beef prices. Yes, they have dropped off a little bit, but in the all in all the prices are holding to over two dollars a pound. Tighten your belts and continue to pray for rain, it is touch and go in most places!

BTW — pray for me as well — in about three weeks I leave for South Africa. I will be working with over 1,000 baby children in orphanage homes in Maputo - Mozambique, Machava, and Xai-Xai. We will be doing all their dental and health care needs, along with digging and installing pumps and water filtration systems in each of the areas. If nothing else — just pray we touch a tiny baby child's life and that a little seed is planted!

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 too, 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.....



Sharon