



Membership Update

by Ben Spitzer
Communications/Member Services Director

Field Days

Summer seems to be the time for Red Angus Field Days. Several Affiliate Associations are busy planning upcoming field days. Field days are one of the best times to get to know other breeders, exchange ideas, and get exposure for your program and the breed. For those planning a field day, please be sure to let us know of your event well ahead of time so that we can help you promote it to the industry. We want you to have all the promotional materials you need as well as assist you with any topics you may want us to discuss from the National Office.

Texas Red Angus Field Day

I attended the Texas Red Angus Association Field Day recently. The event was hosted by Elmore Red Angus, Mark and Brenda Elmore, near Lone Oak, TX. There was a good turnout and a great program. The Texas Association always does a great job with the Juniors and this year was no different. There was a heifer show, showmanship and salesmanship competition for the Juniors to compete in and expand their knowledge of Red Angus and the Beef Industry.

Brochures

Several new Red Angus brochures have appeared in ARA Magazine over the last several months. These are updated versions and should replace any materials that you have from past years. It is important to present the most current information to our customers and those interested in Red Angus genetics.

Coming Events

Be sure to keep us up to date on your Affiliate Association news and events.

- Illinois Red Angus Breeders Field Day (Mt. Carroll, IL) - July 1
- Missouri Red Angus Association Field Day (Rogersville, MO) - July 7
- Nebraska Red Angus Association Field Day (Bertrand, NE) - July 14
- Mason-Dixon Red Angus Field Day (Jane Lew, WV) - July 14
- NCBA Summer Conference (Denver, CO) - July 17-20
- OCA 55th Annual Convention & Trade Show (Oklahoma City, OK) - July 26-28
- Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course (College Station, TX) - August 6-8
- Kansas Red Angus Field Day (Phillipsburg, KS) - August 11
- Minnesota Red Angus Association Tour - August 24-25
- Kansas Red Angus Association Directories are available - www.kansasredangus.org

Adios

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final article as a Red Angus staff member. Over the past two years I have traveled thousands of miles and seen thousands of cattle but more importantly, I have met more amazing people than I ever thought possible. That is the most valuable thing that I have gained during this chapter of my life.

I am extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet many of you at various events or at your ranches. I have been involved with several breeds of cattle and I think the Red Angus family has more than it's fair share of great people. I have been humbled by all of you who welcomed me into your homes; be it for a cup of coffee, a meal, a soak in a famous hot tub, a quick pheasant hunt, a comfortable bed, or even sunrise Easter service at church. I have gained so much from those who took time out of their hectic schedules to show me cattle and just "visit". Whether you know me as "Ben the Intern", "Silo", or just plain old Ben, I am honored that you all have welcomed me into your lives.

While I have enjoyed my tenure with the RAAA, I was approached with a tremendous opportunity to get back to my roots and passion in life. Many of you know my heart is in the production side of the seedstock business. I have been envious of Red Angus breeders because you get to work with cattle on a daily basis. After much prayer and thought, I have accepted the position of General Manager for Salacoa Valley Farms in Fairmount, Georgia. Salacoa Valley is a progressive Brangus and Ultrablack operation with tremendous potential to make a major impact on the Beef Industry.

I am a big believer in Red Angus cattle and what the RAAA stands for. The focus of the Association, Commercial Producers' profitability, is right on track and, in my mind, the only reason we have registered cattle and breed associations. While we may enjoy other aspects of the breed, I hope we all will remember not to stray from the ideals that have brought Red Angus to the forefront of the Beef Industry. I say "we" because you can bet you'll see me around Red Angus circles for years to come.