

RAAA National Office

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Association Commentary

by Greg Comstock, RAAA Executive Secretary

An Honor For Red Angus...Another First

With 341 portraits, the Saddle and Sirloin Club is the world's largest gallery of portraits devoted to a single industry. Established in 1903, the portrait gallery pays tribute to leaders and influential figures of the livestock industry.

The tradition of honoring the significant, historical, and influential leaders of the livestock industry will continue in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The 2008 version of this time honored event will break from tradition. For the first time Red Angus will be honored by recognizing an individual who is a cornerstone of our breed's foundation. It is also fitting that Red Angus, having led so much significant change in the seedstock industry, will again blaze new trails in our first journey to the Saddle and Sirloin club. The 342nd portrait to grace the walls of the NAILE will be Sal Forbes, the first woman so recognized.

When RAAA was founded in a hotel in Fort Worth in 1954, Sal Forbes represented one of Red Angus' seven founding herds. She served as the breed's first Executive Secretary, as she and her husband, Waldo, helped guide the breed in its continued mission of commercial application. Upon Waldo's untimely death in 1955, Sal managed Beckton

Stock Farm and raised seven children, certainly without many of the conveniences that Sheridan, Wyo., enjoys today. In the late 60's, Sal's vision was shared with the industry in a document she penned that history refers to as "the letter"; providing the impetus for the formation of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF). The standardization of measurements, record keeping systems, and formulas used to build genetic predictions has been part of BIF's role in genetic improvement ever since.

On Saturday, June 21st, I attended the Texas Red Angus Field Day, where they held a creative and successful fund raiser, the "Sal Forbes Genetic Gems" embryo auction. The outstanding genetics donated garnered over \$5,000 towards the painting and hanging of Sal's portrait. While this was a great start, we've got a long way to go in this fundraising effort. It is fitting that this courageous cattlegirl and Red Angus founder will also be the first woman so honored by the Saddle and Sirloin. This is a great tribute to Sal, and an honor for all Red Angus stakeholders. If you or your affiliate association is interested in joining this effort, please feel free to contact Ann Holsinger or myself at RAAA headquarters.

--Greg

If you would like to contribute to the painting and hanging of Sal's portrait, please send a check payable to RAAA with Sal Forbes on the memo line to: RAAA • 4201 North Interstate 35 • Denton, TX 76207

If you would like to attend and help honor Sal's historic achievement, the celebration of Sal's lifelong contribution will take place during a dinner held November 16, 2008 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville, Kentucky. Tickets are available at \$125 each. Please send your dinner ticket request with payment to the above address. Be sure to include your contact information where the tickets should be sent.

A block of rooms is available at:

Executive Inn West • Red Angus Saddle & Sirloin Event • \$115 +tax
1-502-367-2251 (Ask for Brenda or Brandon in Reservations) • Release date: 10/23/08