

# YON Family Farms

## December Newsletter 2009

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### Thanks for a Great Fall Sale.....

A beautiful fall day was the setting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Yon Fall Angus Female and Bull Sale in Ridge Spring, SC on November 7, 2009. Females sold first, with strong interest in the Lot 1 and 2 offering from the Yon Sarah family. The Yon Sarah family is known for extremely high carcass EPD's, super growth numbers, and stellar production records. The top seller from the Sarah family (and the entire sale) was a Lot 1A who sold to Cedar View Angus in Woodley, NC for \$7400. She was a bred heifer sired by GAR Retail Product, due to calve in December to SS Objective. The top fall open heifer of the day was also from the Sarah offering and was a SAV Final Answer heifer selected by Gretsches Enterprises in Crawford, GA for \$4300. The high selling fall pair was a pathfinder cow from the Hazel family, Lot 9, with a Net Worth bull calf at side for \$6700. She sold to Wakefield Farms in Hartwell, Georgia, who also purchased four other fall pairs. The second high fall pair was Lot 11 for \$4000 to Russell Wood of Cedar Bay Farm in Willow Springs, NC. The six Angus bred heifers, though few in number, were high in quality and very popular with the bidders, averaging a solid \$3883. For the first time Sim Angus females were offered and those three bred heifers averaged \$3033. There were ten spring pairs and they sold for an average of \$3645. The top spring pair brought \$4600 and consisted of the Lot 23 cow who sold to Earl Waters, Valhalla Farms in Newberry, SC, for \$2600, while her spring heifer calf sold to Todd Little, Oakboro, NC, for \$2000. Another high selling Spring Pair was Lot 18 - the cow sold for \$2800 to Spanish Oaks in Blackstock, SC and her heifer calf sold for \$1400 to Franklin Lindsey in Clinton, NC. There were 21 bred cows that sold for an average of \$2317 with the high seller being

Lot 38 who sold to Tracy Eavenson, Toccoa, GA, for \$3000. Fifty - three lots of females sold for a final average of \$3044. Two lots of embryos, one from the Sarah family and one from the Queen family, each sold for \$2000, and contained four grade one embryos.

Immediately following the females were the coming two-year old bulls that had been developed on forages. Demand for the 80 Angus bulls was strong with the final average at \$2846, with prices ranging from \$1500 to \$6000. The two top sellers brought \$6000 each. Lot 63, a full brother to the Yon Legend S107 herd sire was selected by the Woodard's in Darlington, SC, while Lot 58, a Yon Legend son, went to Sugar Hill Farm in Yatesville, GA. Three, Sim Angus bulls were also sold and they averaged \$2800. One Balancer sold for \$3700 and one Angus /Charolais composite sold for \$1500. Sixty-five percent of the bulls sold to repeat customers, with most of the bulls selling to commercial breeders.

The entire auction was broadcast live on the internet by DV Auctions, allowing folks from far and wide to bid and view the auction. A few lots were sold over the internet, but most buyers were local progressive cattlemen residing in SC, GA, and NC. Buyers and visitors enjoyed a delicious beef stew lunch prepared and served up by the Yon's neighbors. The sale is truly a community event with many neighbors pitching in to extend some of the hospitality from the Ridge. A special treat at this sale was the draft horse team from the Connie Maxwell's Childrens' Home. Sale attendees were given a ride to the sale site from their vehicles in a horse drawn wagon. The next opportunity to purchase Yon bulls at auction will be on February 20, 2010, when they will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual February Bull Sale in Ridge Spring.

### The Drought is Officially Over....

Talk about a change in the weather, boy have we had one. We have been blessed with abundant rainfall and fairly warm temperatures this fall. We began planting our winter grazing early in September and it has really been thriving. There is just one little problem- there have been numerous days on end that it has been too soggy to turn the cattle in, for even a few hours, of grazing. But, we'll take the rain—and it is nice to see the ponds all full to capacity again.

We just tagged the 400<sup>th</sup> calf this season and still have a bunch more to go. We have also begun synchronizing and breeding both heifers and cows, It is truly a busy time of year, but still one of our favorites!

**Congratulations** to Dr. Joel Riley, an excellent vet, cattleman, and friend, who helps with all of our Breeding Soundness Exams, Joel was named Saluda County Cattlemen of the Year in December 2009.

### Alfred Update—

Last December we printed a true story about a homeless man who showed up at our house on Christmas morning in 2007. This story has generated far more interest than any cattle tale we have ever told.

Here are the two answers to the most commonly asked question.

1. Yes, the entire story is 100% true.
2. No, we have never heard from Alfred again, but he has continued to open our eyes to "the down and out" .

If you missed "the Alfred story" it can be found on our website under the newsletter tab in the December 2008 Newsletter.

*Merry Christmas from all of us  
at Yon Family Farms!*

## What's up with the Yons?

Where has the fall gone???

We sent our eldest off to college this fall to begin to work toward her Agriculture Education Degree at Clemson University. Going to "Tigertown" is truly a family tradition for our crowd as Sally has great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins who are either alumni or currently attending. She is rooming with a good friend from here on the Ridge and has made the adjustment from having her own bedroom with cows grazing outside her window, to living in a dorm room, with a view of Death Valley, with lots of diverse hall mates. She has jumped right into the college life and is enjoying Block and Bridle and Clemson Collegiate FFA. A part time job in the Dean of Agriculture's office keeps her busy in the afternoons.

Drake, a high school senior, got his acceptance letter to Clemson to begin in the Fall of 2010, so he is looking forward joining big sis' as a tiger. That leaves Corbin, our high school sophomore to keep us entertained at home and be an "only child" for the next two years during school!

Drake and Corbin both played varsity football this fall and experienced one of those "character building" seasons, but the team did manage to squeak out a couple of wins.

They also showed Market Barrows, which we purchased from our friend, Josh Cabe in Ga. Pigs were our best project this fall as Drake had the Grand Champion at the SC State Fair and Corbin and he both won college scholarships given in the barrow show, based on judging, interview, essay, and showmanship. All three Yons, plus our friend, Chelsie, showed heifers this fall at Abbeville, Anderson, and the SC State Fair. Sally and Drake both had BC Matrix heifers that did well this fall.

Our family made the annual pilgrimage to Louisville for the North American and had some added activities this year. Sally had the experience of a lifetime, competing for the title of Miss American Angus with 4 other girls from around the country who had won top scholarships from the American Angus Auxiliary. After two days of tests, interviews, speeches, and helping with the awards at the show, we were thrilled when Sally was announced the new Miss American Angus. She follows her lifelong friend from GA, Katie Gazda who served in 2009. This means a busy year full of opportunity and a lighter class load in college as she will begin by attending CAB Building Blocks, the National Western Stock Show in Denver, and Fort Worth, all in the month of January, with many more events to follow. We are grateful for the very professional job the

Auxiliary did conducting the contest and are thrilled that Sally made great friends in her fellow contestants.

## 150 Bulls Complete Yon On-Farm Test

Wow, do we have an awesome set of bulls to offer in February's sale! Over 150 bulls were tested and after culling those who didn't make the cut on performance, we will be selling around 135, pending their breeding soundness exams in January. As you study the EPD's of the group you will notice that the AVERAGE of the group is in the top 35 % or higher of all non-parent bulls in the Angus breed for Calving Ease, Weaning, Yearling, Milk, Marbling, Ribeye, \$W and \$Beef. Many of the bulls have EPD's that rank them amongst the very top of the breed.

The good news is that these bulls don't just have super numbers, but they look great as well. They are very thick, sound, have good feet and quiet dispositions. We have been on a crusade at our place to eliminate bad footed cattle from our breeding herd and pay special attention to feet, udders, and disposition. Our cattle have to be functional for a number of years to earn their keep. We make our living in the cattle business and we know the bulls have to get the job done for our customers. We continue to guarantee your satisfaction. Come take a look at the bulls or preview them on our website.

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