

Mason Dixon Red Angus News

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Mason Dixon Red Angus
Association

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www.masondixonredangus.org

Letter from the President

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health and spirits for the New Year and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday. With three young children under the age of seven our house was quite busy.

Last year was quite a busy year in our region within the Red Angus breed. Our association sale in Harrisonburg during the VA Beef Expo and the Stocking Stuffer sale held in North Carolina went extremely well with cattle selling for some outstanding prices. The feeder, stocker and fed cattle markets continue to command top dollar although various input costs have risen most notably grain and hay. Be sure to position your operation to take advantage of these markets while they last.

Reports from the National Red Angus Convention indicated the convention was well organized and attended. Special thanks to our association, numerous supporters and donors in helping to raise monetary support from the Mason Dixon towards the convention. Our association received a nice thank you note from the Red Angus Association of the Carolina's which I'll share during our upcoming February meeting.

Speaking of upcoming events and activities plan to attend the annual membership meeting Sunday, February 12, 2012 in Harrisonburg, VA and the Red Roundup Sale, Friday, April 20, 2012 in Harrisonburg, VA.

Gabe Zepp
MDRAA President

New Mason Dixon Website

The new website, www.masondixonredangus.org, is up and running and the association is looking to build additional content to

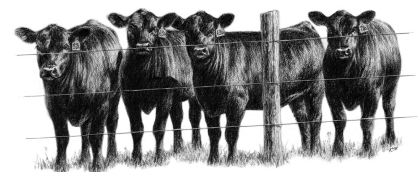
the website pages. Currently, you'll find a **members** section with 29 current members from 6 different states and an **events calendar** listing upcoming shows and filing deadlines. The **bulletin board** section is for members to list cattle, services or equipment offered to others. The **contact us** section lists current officers and board of directors, the **useful links** provides additional Red Angus resources and the **junior association** section will eventually list programs and opportunities for junior members.

We encourage all members to provide additional content, pictures, news, services and advertisements to Becky Ramsey, MDRAA Secretary at 540-641-2697 or email: becky.ramsey@rocketmail.com. Becky is working closely with our website provider, Black Locust Livestock, LLC. This is your association's website so help us build a useful and beneficial website.

Annual Winter Meeting

The annual winter meeting will be held at noon on **Sunday, February 12, 2012** at **Panos Restaurant**, 3190 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Please call Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or email: zredcows@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 8th with your reservation. All are encouraged to attend.

Directions: From I-81 take Exit 243/Harrisonburg. Turn right onto Rt. 11 toward Harrisonburg. Destination will be on the right, 3190 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.



2011 Red Roundup Sale Results

\$48,755 on 30 lots = \$1625 average

Cow Calf Pairs -	\$2108
Bred Cows -	\$1842
Bred Heifers -	\$1644
Open Heifers-	\$1165
Bulls -	\$2312

The sale was met with a large crowd and the excitement was high as thirty lots sold in the 2011 Red Roundup Sale for an average of \$1625.

The high selling cow/calf pairs were consigned by Dunkard Valley Farms, PA. These full sib females with calves, lot 4 and 5, GMRA Karuba and Red Patriot 519 cows each sold for \$2525. The high selling bred cow, lot 3, was consigned by Long Bow Farms, NC. This Larson and Boot Jack breeding piece sold for \$2200 and was bred to Badlands Classic 50T. The high selling bred heifers, lots 15 and 16, consigned by Red Hill Farm, VA each brought \$1800 and were bred to Bieber Make Mimi and Whitestone BCC Sakic respectively. The high selling open heifer, lot 23, was a Bieber High Density 9165 daughter and consigned by Swank Farms, PA. This outstanding March show prospect sold for \$1675. The high selling bull, lot 29, was a February yearling out of Red Fine Line Mulberry 26P, consigned by Country Acres Farm, MD and sold for \$2900.

Special thanks to Country Acres Farm for donating an open heifer with proceeds used to offset the monetary contribution from the MDRAA towards the National Convention last September.

The sale commission for consignors was a low 9.6%...have you considered consigning cattle for 2012?

VA and WV Beef Expo Sales

The MDRAA Red Angus Roundup Sale will be held in conjunction with the VA Beef Expo on Friday, April 20, 2012 at 3:00 pm. The sale committee is

currently looking for consignors for this upcoming sale. Consignor forms and information can be found within this newsletter and on the Mason Dixon website at www.masondixonredangus.org. The sale will be broadcast live with internet bidding through www.cowbuyer.com.

The **WV Beef Expo Mountaineer Red Angus Classic** will be held Saturday, April 14 at Jackson's Mill, WV. Consignor forms are also located within this newsletter and online and for inquiries please contact Dan or Alicia Stickle at 304-884-7993 or 304-545-7677.

Bull Test Results

Bull tests provide an excellent opportunity to test the superiority of purebred bulls from various breeders as well as an excellent opportunity to purchase bulls for the upcoming breeding season. Below are links to regional bull tests.

Clemson Bull Test, South Carolina – unclear of current Red Angus bulls on test but previously tested

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/livestock/beef/bull_tests/cubt.html

North Carolina Bull Tests – Summer and Fall Tests complete

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/bcip/Ahbcip.html

Pennsylvania Bull Test – bull sale March 30, 2012 - eight Red Angus on test

<http://www.livestockevaluationcenter.com/BullTesting.aspx>

Virginia BCIA Bull Test – bull sale March 24, 2012 – one Red Angus on test

http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu/reports/2011/11_weightreport_swjr.html

http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu/reports/2011/11_weightreport_swsr.html

West Virginia Bull Tests – no Red Angus on test

<http://www.wvbeef.org/bulltest>

Survey Says

Last winter a member survey was provided as a means to help guide the future direction of our organization. While we had approximately one-third of our membership reply the results will help provide some insight and planning to the Board of Directors.

Those that responded represent mostly purebred cow/calf operations selling primarily live cattle. Very few offered embryos or semen for sale. As expected with these results most breeders were interested in selling purebred animals. Very few members were interested in selling finished steers or freezer beef.

Respondents claimed ownership of nearly 450 brood cows, nearly 70 breeding bulls, 146 stocker or feeder steers and 210 heifers. It should be noted that these numbers do not represent all purebred Red Angus.

The membership is thoroughly interested in many programs from purebred sales, bull tests, genomic testing and generally having a good time. The Roundup sale, bull tests, educational programs and social events garnered the most votes!

If you would like to complete the brief survey it can be found on our association website. Additional questions include: what can the MDRAA help you to succeed; what can or will you bring to the MDRAA to help strengthen the association and a comments and suggestions question. This is your opportunity to speak up on behalf of the association.

Future News Info

If you have news items to include in the newsletter please contact Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or email: zredcows@gmail.com.

