

# Mason Dixon Red Angus News

## MDRAA News

- 1 Letter for the President  
Annual MDRAA Meeting
- 2 Board of Directors  
2011 National Convention  
Bull Tests  
Juniors  
Sale Opportunities
- 3 Show Schedule  
Feeder / Stocker Sales  
Bulletin Board  
Website  
Booth Display  
Breeders Directory  
Membership Survey  
2010 VA Expo Sale

Mason Dixon Red Angus  
Association

42473 Farm Lane  
Leesburg, VA 20176

540-641-2697 – Sec./Treas.  
443-340-0808 – Pres.

[www.MDRAA.com](http://www.MDRAA.com)

## Letter from the President

Christmas has come and gone and I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday and are looking forward to the New Year as I am.

It's been almost a year since I took the reigns as the Mason Dixon Red Angus Association President and while at that time was looking forward to helping to move our association forward. I can honestly say other than assisting the Ramsey family with our association "Roundup" sale in conjunction with the VA Beef Expo I haven't done a thing for our association! Since I have another year on my term the time has come to move our association forward and work towards promoting our association and assisting its members with their Red Angus endeavors. I believe many of you are looking forward to really jumpstarting the Mason Dixon Red Angus Association to become a more productive organization that regional cattle enthusiast would be excited to be a member of.

In the New Year my goals for the association include updating promotional tools for our association. Foremost, I believe our association **website** needs a complete overhaul with lots of updated material and posts on a consistent regular basis. Additional marketing materials needed include a revamped **table top display** and a **membership directory** similar to what other breed association's offer. I currently have all that remains of the old table top display.

Having recently gone through our association membership I feel it would be wise to put together a **breeder survey** to recognize what programs are of interest to our association members and to learn a little more about the cattle programs of our members. There are simply too many members that I personally don't know or know anything about their own programs and

what they may have to offer me or other producers throughout our region. Enclosed you'll find a breeder survey that I hope will also steer the course of our association.

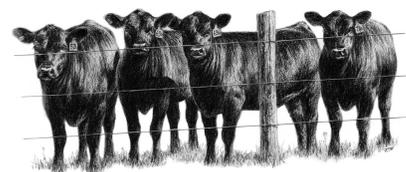
As you can see there is much work to do in 2011. If any of you have additional thoughts or comments please share them with me as I look forward to moving our association ahead in the New Year.

Gabe Zepp  
MDRAA President

## Annual MDRAA Meeting

The annual January meeting will be held on **January 23, 2011** starting at 12:00 noon with buffet dinner. The meeting will take place at Traditions Family Restaurant, 625 Mount Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Please call Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or email [zredcows@gmail.com](mailto:zredcows@gmail.com) by Friday January 21 with your reservation.

**Directions: From I-81 take Exit 251/Harrisonburg toward Harrisonburg/Eastern Mennonite University – go 0.4 mi, turn left on N Valley Pike (US-11S) – go 2.4 mi, turn right on to Mt. Clinton Pike – go 1.4 mi, arrive at 625 Mt. Clinton Pike, #E, Harrisonburg, on the left.**



## Board of Directors

Gabe Zepp  
President  
2700 Rowe Road  
New Windsor, MD 21776  
443-340-0808  
[zredcows@gmail.com](mailto:zredcows@gmail.com)

Terry Boyles  
P.O. Box 1501  
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336-859-5684  
[mboyles@triad.rr.com](mailto:mboyles@triad.rr.com)

Albert McPherson  
13231 Old Annapolis Road  
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301-829-1656

Becky Ramsey  
42473 Farm Lane  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
540-641-2697  
[becky.ramsey@rocketmail.com](mailto:becky.ramsey@rocketmail.com)

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540-641-2697  
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Josh Stewart  
12137 Warner Road  
Keymar, MD 21757  
301-639-1182  
[jstewart@harkinsbuilders.com](mailto:jstewart@harkinsbuilders.com)

Eddie Yancey  
12131 Indian Trail Road  
Broadway, VA 22815  
540-896-7171

## 2011 National Convention

The 2011 National Red Angus Convention will be held in Raleigh, NC in September, 2011. As part of the Northeast area it's our obligation to help with fundraising efforts for this convention. The Red Angus Association of the Carolina's is the host association for this event. Martin Morgan, Director for District VII – Northeast, will discuss the convention and fundraising efforts during our

annual meeting in Harrisonburg, VA on Sunday, January 23, 2011. Our association will be looking for farm donations/sponsors, heifer/semens or embryo donations along with silent or live auction donations towards these fundraising efforts. For more information or participation requests please contact Gabe Zepp or Martin Morgan at (828)-712-9232.

## Bull Tests

Many States throughout the east offer bull tests for rate of gain, feed efficiency, fertility, carcass ultrasound data and genomic testing in conjunction with an annual sale at the conclusion of each test period. 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. Pennsylvania has even gone a step further to offer a heifer development program which also includes a breeding option for the participating farms. For more information on bull tests in the east please visit the hosts below.

### PA Bull Test

[www.livestockevaluationcenter.com/BullTesting.aspx](http://www.livestockevaluationcenter.com/BullTesting.aspx)

814-238-2527

### VA Bull Tests

<http://bcia.apsc.vt.edu/membership/membership.html#>

540-672-7396 – Culpepper

540-980-5848 – Dublin

### North Carolina Bull Test

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/animal\\_sci/extension/animal/bcip/Ahbcip.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/animal_sci/extension/animal/bcip/Ahbcip.html)

919-515-4027

### Clemson Bull Test

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/livestock/beef/bull\\_tests/cubt.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/livestock/beef/bull_tests/cubt.html)

803-284-3343

### West Virginia Bull Tests

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

304-472-4020

### Other Tests

<http://beefteam.msu.edu/MSUPrograms/BullTest/BullTestPrograms/tabid/626/Default.aspx>

## Juniors

Throughout the years the MDRAA Junior program has provided various support and opportunities to help our juniors grow and become productive cattle enthusiasts. Programs have included junior shows, Sal Forbes Traveling Female Program and financial support for our juniors to attend National Junior Conventions and Conferences. Much of this support has waned over the years due mostly to the limited number of juniors in our association and the consistency of the Junior leadership. I know there is interest within the MDRAA Junior program to revitalize many of the above mentioned programs. If you are a junior or know of juniors that are interested in regional or national programs please complete the junior member application. If you are interested in assisting the MDRAA Junior Program please contact Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or Reagan Waggle at 804-337-9405. New thoughts and ideas are always accepted.

## Sale Opportunities

Numerous sale opportunities exist for purebred Red Angus cattle through sales in NY, VA, NC, WV, KY and AL. These sales are usually hosted by various regional Red Angus associations or beef expos. If you're a purebred breeder and in need of additional marketing avenues for your cattle please consider consigning cattle to one of the following spring sales.

**VA Beef Expo** – consignment letter enclosed

**WV Beef Expo** – Dan Stickel, 304-545-7677

**NY All Breed Bull and Heifer Sale**, 716-870-2777

## Show Schedule

The Red Angus breed is becoming a popular show breed with both open and junior shows throughout the east. Additional show information including links and dates will be posted on the MDRAA website in the near future. These regional shows can be found online by searching the show name.

NY State Fair  
MD State Fair  
VA State Fair  
NC State Fair  
Eastern National Livestock Show, MD  
Keystone International Livestock Exposition, PA  
North American International Livestock Exposition, KY

## Feeder/Stocker Sales

In years past the MDRAA had created feeder and stocker cattle marketing opportunities through the use of teleauctions in Virginia. These teleauctions typically found backgrounded and tagged Red Angus steers and heifers in high demand and garnered premium prices. Longtime MDRAA member Joyce Tice was the spearhead of these sales and over time the association moved away from those opportunities. If you would like to participate in these opportunities again please complete the attached breeder survey and indicate your interests in selling feeders or stocker cattle. This program could be a great program for many of our purebred bull customers.

## Bulletin Board

In the next newsletter and on our association website is a section for bulletin board material. This section is a free service to our members in which members can post cattle, equipment, announcements, wanted, etc for sale or to be publicized. Each advertisement /announcement will be read first before being posted. Be sure to take advantage of the free service.

## Website

As I mentioned earlier in the letter our MDRAA website needs a new look and facelift. Having said that, I understand in order for this to happen I need the consent of our organization first as a facelift may cost the association a little money. I am proposing to look into the effectiveness and cost of a few cattle web design firms including Kevin LeMaster at the RAAA and others. If anyone has web design abilities and the time to do this at a reasonable cost please let Gabe Zepp know at 443-340-0808.

## Booth Display

The booth display will be set up to view at the next association meeting in Harrisonburg. This will allow everyone to opportunity to view the display and give suggestions on how to build upon what's already there. Like our association website this marketing tool is in need of an overhaul to put it back into a more functional use. Suggestions are welcome.

## Breeders Directory

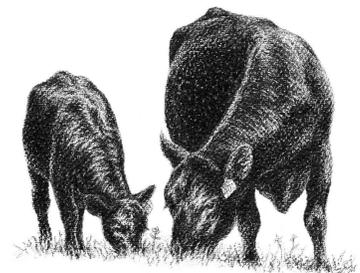
I'm sure many of you have either seen or picked up a breeders directory from a local state breed association. These directories often list the directors, membership of the association, offer advertisements from member farms or local businesses. Advertisements help to defray the printing costs of such directories. Our association is large enough and encompasses a large geographical area. A breeder's directory could be a great avenue to promote Red Angus throughout the region and help advertise our member farms to all cattle producers. During our January meeting I will discuss and show examples of such directories and provide cost options to determine if this is a marketing tool in which to pursue. Feedback is welcome before the meeting and should be shared with any of our directors.

## Membership Survey

The intent of this survey is to become more familiar with our association members and their needs to help guide the direction of our association. *The survey is attached to this newsletter.* Please complete this survey and mail to Gabe Zepp, MDRAA President, 2700 Rowe Road, New Windsor, MD 21776 or email responses to [zredcows@gmail.com](mailto:zredcows@gmail.com). Thank you for participating.

## 2010 VA Expo Sale

Results of the 2010 sale will be available and discussed during the January membership meeting in Harrisonburg, VA. Anyone not able to attend can view the results online at [www.mdraa.com](http://www.mdraa.com). The sale averaged over \$1,300 on all live lots with a sales commission under 15%. All things considered this was a successful sale with management provided by Mason Dixon's own members and where your input matters!



# Application for Membership

MASON-DIXON RED ANGUS ASSOC IS LOCATED IN DISTRICT VII OF THE RED ANGUS ASSOC OF AMERICA. MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL RED ANGUS ASSOC IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER RED ANGUS BUT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN MASON-DIXON. ONLY THE REGULAR MEMBERSHIP IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON MASON-DIXON BUSINESS. DUES ARE YEARLY AND DUE ON JANUARY 1. RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY WITH YOUR CHECK.

## Mason Dixon Membership Classifications

### *Regular Membership*

Membership in Mason-Dixon is for those people who own Red Angus cattle, whether or not they are members of the Red Angus Association of America. Each membership is considered a family membership, which includes spouses and children living at home and actively participating in the cattle operation. Those children who have not reached their 21st birthday are considered to be Junior Members but are not subject to Junior dues. The Regular Membership is \$20 per year and entitles the membership to only one vote (either husband or wife) on all Mason-Dixon business and the right to consign cattle to any Mason-Dixon sponsored sale. National membership is required to participate in any Red Angus cattle shows.

### *Associate Membership*

The Associate Membership was designed for those people with an interest in Red Angus but who do not register cattle and do not belong to the national association. Associates are not privileged to vote on any Mason-Dixon business but will receive newsletters and any mailings that go to the membership. The Associate Membership fee is \$10 per year.

### *Junior Membership*

The Junior membership is for those young people under 21 years of age who own registered Red Angus in their name and show cattle in junior and/or open shows. It is not necessary for parents to be members of Mason-Dixon or the national Red Angus Association. Junior membership does not include any voting rights but does include the right to consign cattle to any Mason-Dixon sale and receive all Mason-Dixon mailings. The annual membership fee is \$5 per year.

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**Please return this portion of the application with your membership dues.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application along with your check to the address below or bring it with you to the annual meeting on January 23, 2011.

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Mason Dixon Red Angus Association  
42473 Farm Lane  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
540-641-2697



## Mason Dixon Red Angus Association Breeders Survey

The intent of this survey is to become more familiar with our association members and their needs to help guide the direction of our association. Please complete this survey and mail to **Gabe Zepp, MDRAA President, 2700 Rowe Road, New Windsor, MD 21776** or email responses to [zredcows@gmail.com](mailto:zredcows@gmail.com). Thank you for participating.

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle all that apply.

- 1) Our farm consist of:
  - a. Purebred Red Angus
  - b. Commercial Cattle
  - c. Purebred and Commercial Cattle
  
- 2) Our operation type is:
  - a. Cow/Calves
  - b. Stockers
  - c. Feeders
  - d. Finishing
  
- 3) We sell:
  - a. Cow Calf Pairs
  - b. Bulls
  - c. Bred Heifers
  - d. Open Heifers
  - e. Steers
  - f. Show stock
  - g. Embryos
  - h. Semen
  
- 4) We are interested in:
  - a. Selling purebred cattle
  - b. Selling commercial cattle
  - c. Selling feeders/stocker cattle
  - d. Selling finished steers or freezer beef



**Mason Dixon Red Angus Association**

**42473 Farm Lane  
Leesburg, VA 20176**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



