

ROYAL BEEF GENETICS

Past, Present, Future

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, Dunford Royal Cattle Company began building the foundation for what has become one of the largest purebred operations in eastern North America. Though there have been several breeds of cattle produced at the farm since its inception, many things have remained constant. Our cattle have always needed to be functional animals, which could do a good job raising a calf, but at the same time be pleasing to look at. This was evident in the past by the many show champions produced at Dunford Royal.

While trying to breed cattle with superior confirmation and performance, the one trait which we chose to focus on in our Angus herd is efficiency. Not only are we concerned with feed efficiency but also breeding and calving efficiency. Cows in our herd must efficiently raise a strong, healthy calf which can push down the scales come weaning time.

Our Black Angus breeding herd consists of 175 mature females. The spring calving program has 110 purebred cows which start calving the beginning of January. Of these cows, 90% calve in 30 days and the remainder calve in February and early March. There are 65 mature females in our fall calving program. About half are purebreds and half are Angus and Limousin cross cows which are used for recipients. Also over 90% of the fall calves come within 30 days starting at the beginning of September and they finish by the middle of October. Strong emphasis is placed on reproductive efficiency and we continually try to calve more cows in a shorter period.

When the calves hit the ground, huge emphasis is placed on the ease of the

calving and the mothering ability of the cow. We do not make excuses for cows who are not good mothers. Also, we select for cattle which raise strong healthy calves year after year. Good cows very seldom have sick calves and coupled with proper nutrition and management can make calving season a lot more enjoyable.

We demand that cows in our program produce a high percentage of their own body weight without a lot of extras. This is an easier goal for 1200-1400 lb. cows to achieve than it is for larger, higher maintenance type cows. The average 205 day weight for our bull calves last fall was 708 lbs. with 6 weeks of creep feed. The 49 heifer calves averaged 618 lbs., without creep feed. Our moderate sized, deep bodied cows have the capacity to convert forages to milk and produce beef in the most efficient way possible.

As our Black Angus program moves forward, we continue to identify and focus on the genetics which best fit our goal. That goal is efficient, easy keeping cattle which are as close to maintenance free as possible. We continue to performance test, ultrasound for carcass data, and use every tool available to help us breed the most economically viable cattle possible. Our herd is large enough so that you have an excellent selection and we completely stand behind every purchase. Give us a call any time to view our program.



**BIO TESTED BULL
OPEN HOUSE &
PRIVATE TREATY SALE,
MARCH 25, 2005**

**DUNFORD ROYAL
PRODUCTION SALE
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