For Immediate Release

A Short Overview of a Short Breed: Lowline Angus Cattle

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Louisville, KY – November 19, 2014 – During the 2014 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), 88 Lowline Angus cattle were exhibited.

Lowline Angus originated in Australia, where they were kept in a closed herd for twenty years. That herd was a research project to determine if researchers could in fact breed a smaller Angus. Today, Lowline Angus are more like the 1950’s Angus. Some producers, like Heather Fanning of Cordova, IL, believe that Lowline Angus are now the purest form of Angus.

Although Lowline Angus may not be as popular as the Angus breed, both breeds are much the same. Their meat quality is nearly identical. Fanning stated, “Meat quality wise, they’re still the same as Angus.” Only a few characteristics set the two apart.

The most prominent difference between Lowline Angus and Angus is the size. While Lowline Angus can grow to 1,150 to 1,275 pounds, they are only approximately waist tall in height. Fanning said the average size ration of a Lowline Angus-to-Angus is 3:1. This makes Lowline Angus the better option for small acreage farms, particularly in suburbs.

Fanning pointed out the major producer benefit of Lowline Angus is efficiency. Lowline Angus have less bone and waste product. She also mentioned, “Feed efficiency is definitely a bonus.” That characteristic makes the breed excellent for grass feeding.

Lowline Angus also have great calving ease, making them ideal surrogate mothers. Calves are generally smaller. Fanning stated they originally used their Lowline Angus to make smaller Galloway cattle. However, Fanning Cattle Company now shows purebred Lowline Angus as well.

Fanning does not believe Lowline Angus will ever overtake Angus, despite their heightened efficiency. However, she hopes the Angus breed learns to accept them.

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