

# Quaker Hill Farm



- the name itself leads the mind to the knowledge of how deeply rooted the farm is to Virginia history. The main farm house was built in 1742 and existed within the boundaries of a Quaker Colony. The house was originally used as a gathering place where Quaker meetings were held. The Joseph Lee Rosson family purchased the property around the turn of the century and began building the establishment that we know today as Quaker Hill Farm.

Joseph's son, Charles Lee Rosson, his grandson Charles S. Rosson, and his great-grandsons, Charles A. and Lee Rosson, along with their families continued to maintain and build on the foundation laid those many years ago. According to Charles A., "We incorporated the farm about five years ago. Instead of having everything in three different pots, we put it all together. It works really well for us, as we have a great family relationship, we work together as a team."

Charles S., whose lifetime membership in the Angus association went into effect in 1957, recently retired from the Postal Service, and along with his sons and one other full time employee, is heavily involved with the day-to-day activities at the farm. Lee Rosson plants over 500 acres of beans and corn annually, and works as a technician for Synagro, a bio-solids recycling company. Charles A. is the Extension Agent in Louisa County, servicing the planning district where they reside, and the surrounding five county area. Between Charles A. and Lee's off the farm employment, they have the ability to get out and see a lot of farmers and find out what's working and what's not.

Apparently, what Quaker Hill is doing is working. Charles A. was named the 2006 Cattleman of the Year by the Virginia Angus Association. And, the Rosson Family, Quaker Hill Farm LLC, was named the 2006 VA BCIA (Beef Cattle Improvement Association) Seedstock Producer of the Year last month at the Virginia Cattlemans Convention, and will compete on the national level for the BIF (Beef Improvement Federation) Seedstock Producer of the Year Award representing the state of Virginia.

The 3,500 acre farm is self-sufficient and all monies generated go right back into the farm, with the bulk going towards purchasing an ever-growing genetically sound herd of Angus cattle. So far, the strategy has worked. The cattle are phenomenal, the crops are good, and the farm is thriving. "It's been a good arrangement so far. Angus cattle have been really good to us. The more you're around them, the more you realize how much potential there is in this breed, as far as being very successful. Angus has become synonymous with quality. The public understands that now and there is unlimited potential to how far this industry can go. We're happy to be part of it," states Charles A.

Although the herd is now a power-packed group of Angus cattle, the herd began with commercial cows which were heavily influenced by Herefords. However, with the purchase of some registered bulls, Angus genetics were introduced early on. In the 70's, the focus switched to a very successful run

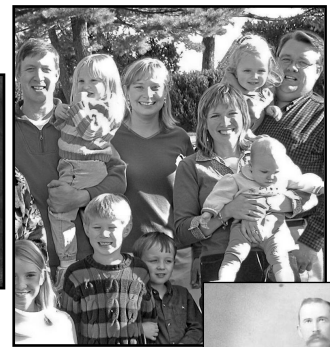
in the purebred Limousin industry. Then, in the 80's, the decision was made to convert the herd and focus only on Angus genetics.

Full scale Angus production began in 1991 with the purchase of 50 cows, which were daughters of Lovana and Cornerstone, from Ankony Angus in Nebraska. In the late 90's a monumental opportunity occurred with the chance to own the Charles Wampler herd in Virginia, one of the original performance herds in Virginia and the nation. The Wampler herd was one of the first participants at the bull test at Culpeper. Because of the foundation laid through line bred genetics, the purchase of that herd took Quaker Hill light years into the future in terms of the genetic progress they were able to achieve. Those foundations included some of the greats, such as Bando, Shoshone, and 9J9 type pedigrees.

From that point, they hit the ground running with their A.I. program. Today the whole herd is A.I'd, with each animal going once, sometimes twice, through the chute to make sure they are bred to the top-of-the-breed sires that reside at Quaker Hill. Bulls such as 6807 and EXT were in use at Quaker Hill long before they came to nationwide popularity in the late 90's. Some of the best cows in the Quaker Hill herd are EXT daughters. "I don't know whether that was luck, or just good planning," says Charles A., "but it works." After having started with 50 registered animals, the cow herd grew to it's highest count, at over 600 at one point, and then back to the roughly 450 that it now numbers.

The goal established, and subsequently met, was to acquire herd bulls that defied the genetic antagonisms. Low birth weight sires that had good growth were sought. "From day one, we got real high marbling from our cows. However, we didn't want the cattle to be high marbling just for the sake of being high marbling. We wanted them to be good, functional, moderate framed, and be able to function on the Fescue grass in our area of country." That led them to Minnesota where, in 2001, the herd sire SS Objective T510 0T26 was purchased in partnership with ABS Global. His outstanding data, including a birth weight of 68 lbs. and a yearling weight of 1,300 and proven high marbling, lead the owners of Quaker Hill to believe him to be the perfect package for what they were looking for.

Another outstanding purchase for Quaker Hill was Rito 2V1 of 2536 1407. Being a 1407, one of the most widely used carcass bulls, x 2536, who has an unequaled ultrasound record, is one of the reasons Charles S. and his sons decided to take a gamble on him. They've never looked back... it's proven to be a



Quaker Hill Farm



remarkable move for the farm. 2V1 is now Accelerated Genetic's number one selling semen bull. Along with 2V1 and Objective, six other Quaker Hill herd sires are enrolled in four different bull studs including ABS, Genex, Accelerated and Origen. Having those bulls reside at the farm has allowed them to approach 100% AI for several years now, and the major improvement is the results are showing not just on the top end of the cattle, but also on the lower one-third. The quality has improved exponentially over a very short period of time.

With much sadness over the loss of a lease on 750 acres of land, Quaker Hill Farm is gearing up for their Mature Herd Dispersal sale, June 3. Charles A. states, "Our loss is going to be a monumental gain for others. We have the cream of the crop of our herd that we were looking to build long term, but now we just don't have the land resources, as far as pastures to maintain them." So, now the process of thinning the herd has begun with the mature cow herd dispersal.

Basically, the only cattle being kept on the farm are a small section of the heifer calves, a small section of the bred heifers, and a few of the donors that have been acquired over the last couple of years, that haven't realized their genetic potential yet. Everything else will sell in its entirety. If you go back to the Wampler herd, and even before that, there are about five or six decades of time, sweat equity, and work on Angus genetics about to be dispersed. There is amazing buying potential that could prove to be worthwhile to any farm, from the large ranch looking to enhance the genetics already working for them, to the smaller farm that wants to build a foundation on the genetics being offered.

The 250 head of Angus available include: about 160 cows, 70 fall calves, 50 fall bred calving commercial cows, select pregnancies and 2

AI herd sires. The Blackcap family is one of the greatest cow families at Quaker Hill Farm, and will be the family they continue to build upon. QHF Blackcap 4V16, a Rito 2V1 daughter and the \$70,000 heifer that Prospect Hill purchased one-half interest in, is one of the featured donors of this sale. She ratioed in the top one percent of the breed on Ribeye with an EPD of +.85, as well as ratioing at +.43 for IMF EPD. Pregnancies by 4V16 out of Ideal 4355, Connealy Lead On, and WAR Alliance 9126 will be sold. All these matings are going to have cutting edge genetic potential.

Possession on SS Rito Rito R011 2R12, a bull enrolled in the ABS Global AI Stud and ranks in the lowest two percent for BW EPD, the top ten percent for WW EPD and the top two percent for IMF EPD, will be offered. Possession will also be offered on Mill Brae Freightliner 2096, who ranks in the lowest five percent for BW EPD, and is sired by Connealy Freightliner and from a dam by Sitz Traveler 8180. These awesome Angus genetics are being offered only because with the size of herd they will be maintaining, there is no longer the need for as much bull power as before. The opportunity is there for a few operations to get a herd sire that is leased by a major AI company and is already out there in the population being proven. For them, it won't be a start-up project, they can purchase that animal with the assurance that it will immediately improve their herd aesthetics.

The Rosson Family has set Saturday, June 3, 2006, as the day for you to stop by and take advantage of the tremendous Angus genetics being offered. The sale will begin at noon, but come early and take a good look at the cattle. You can call Charles or Lee at 540-894-3523 for more information, or to request a DVD of the offering.

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