

## The Beginning

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Over a century ago, the first of the Stevenson family decided to make Central Montana home, even before our local community of Hobson was established. The Judith Basin, named for the tributary discovered by the Lewis and Clark expedition, was originally home to the great migratory herds of buffalo and the nomadic natives that followed them. In 1880, a young cowboy named Charlie Russell ventured into the Judith Basin. America's most legendary western artist painted and cowboy'd his way through the days of the big roundups. The buffalo herds were still plentiful, but within a few years, they were gone. The Blackfeet, Crow, and Assiniboine freely traveled and hunted across the Judith Basin, one of their favorite hunting grounds. That quickly ended with the government's intervention. The rancher and the cowboy slowly tamed the wild country as the herds of cattle replaced the buffalo. The mountain men, buffalo hunters, wolfers, and rustlers all had their hey-days before law, order and civilization ruled. Wide-open range with "grass side up" was fenced and plowed "grass side down." Settlers rapidly tamed the land. Discovery of gold and eventually the famous Yogo Sapphire, brought even more land tamers. The Judith Basin continues to stir the imagination and spirit today as it did for a cowboy artist over 130 years ago.



**Jamie Stevenson**

With the inclusion of homesteads, railroads and reliable civic order Jim Stevenson moved his family from Missouri where he homesteaded 160 acres. He raised his family in humble fashion. One son, Jamie, showed great interest for the land and eventually a small parcel of 240 acres was financed and purchased on a partnership basis. Everything that encompasses the Stevenson Angus Ranch legacy goes back to that initial land purchase, with agriculture being our sole resource, then and now.

Jamie and Jeanette Stevenson graduated school from one of Hobson High School's first graduating classes and were married in 1936. They spent the first winter of their marriage in the bunkhouse of his parent's ranch. These were some of the darkest days of the Great Depression and one of the coldest winters on record in Montana, they could not in their wildest dreams have imagined that their now-joint venture of 40 cows and 240 sheep with Jamie's parents would some day grow into a family operation ranking as the largest breeder of Angus cattle in North America.

For more than eight decades, our family has believed in our ability to make a living in the beautiful, but often harsh ranch land of Central Montana. Carrying on the tradition established by Grandpa Jamie and Grandma Jeanette, each new generation of the family has added land and more Angus cows.

## The Family

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The birth of five sons; Jim, Wes, Wayne, Keith and Rick, kept the household lively during the early years. Jamie and Jeanette scrimped and saved to put food on the table for their sons and to expand their ranching enterprise. Crops, cream, eggs, custom harvest work and a flock of turkeys contributed during these early years. Jamie's main priority was always to add more land. By the mid 40's he had a band that ranged from 1,200 to 1,500 sheep and a herd of mostly Shorthorn and Hereford cattle that Jeanette fondly recalled as "a calico group of cattle." In 1947, Jamie and Jeanette opened a new chapter of the family when they purchased four registered Angus heifers from the dispersal sale of Airyland Ranch, one of Montana's pioneer Angus herds, nearby in Lewistown. We've been hooked on Angus cattle since that humble but historic beginning. By the early 50's, the majority of the herd was Angus and the growth and expansion has never stopped.



**Jim, Wes, Jeanette, Wayne, Keith, Rick**

The Montana Angus Association was formally organized in 1951. Charter members were recognized and honored at the Winter Fair in Bozeman, MT as reported in the *Montana Angus News*, April 1978:

*Kenneth Mortag, secretary of the Association, had done the research and explained that he had used the old minute books and had found seven names, who were on the original roll in 1951. They were W.J. Harrer, Helena; Fred Harrer, Bozeman; Hugh Cameron, Power; Joe Lee, Belgrade; Green Valley Ranch, Hobson; Stevenson Angus Ranch, Hobson; and the N-Bar Ranch, Grass Range.*

Grandma Jeanette was just beginning her lifetime of service to the breed. Minutes from the original Montana Angus Auxiliary meeting state:

*An organization meeting was held at the home of Esther Harrer, Green Meadow Ranch, Helena, on June 13, 1960, to form a ladies' auxiliary of the Montana Angus Association. This auxiliary is to be known as the Montana Angus Auxiliary. Fifteen ladies were present to be known as the charter members.*

*Election of officers was held with Esther Harrer elected as president, Jeanette Stevenson, vice-president, and Kay Conzelman, secretary-treasure.*

For the rest of her life, Grandma dedicated much her time to serving and promoting the Angus breed. She served as President of the Montana Angus Auxiliary from 1962 to 1964.

Aside from family, Grandpa Jamie had two passions; Angus cattle and poker. He spent a lifetime promoting and expanding Stevenson Angus and the Angus breed. He served in various leadership positions with the Montana Angus Association and was a delegate to the American Angus Association meetings at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, IL. He seemed to find card games every step along the way.



**Jeanette Stevenson**

The passing of Grandpa Jamie in 1975 was another milepost along the trail of both good and bad times for our family. Grandma Jeanette then made possible some of the most pivotal decisions within the next few years. Deciding to pass on the ranch and outright sell it to the boys, she ultimately molded the direction for the next generations. The ranch was split and sold five ways between the sons. Grandma remained very active in the Angus world for many years and served as President for the American Angus Auxiliary from 1978 to 1979. That organization named her distinguished Woman of the Year in 1986. She was editor of the *Montana Angus News* from 1967 into the early 1980's. In 1990, Montana Governor Stephens named her the state's "Outstanding Senior Volunteer." In 1991, she was inducted into the American Angus Association Heritage Foundation as only the fourth woman to receive this honor. Just shy of her 101st birthday, Grandma Jeanette passed away in 2015. Her memory was eulogized as she was so often referred to as "Montana's Angus Queen."

The untimely death of Wayne Stevenson in 1994 had an everlasting effect for everyone in the family. The patriarch to the Basin Angus and Stevenson's Diamond Dot families, Wayne's influence still continues today. Decisions made thirty and forty years ago by Wayne were integral in the continuation and evolution of Stevenson Angus. Examples of that stockmanship are recognized moreover in the herd bull stories that follow. In 1994, Wayne's contributions to the Angus breed were recognized posthumously when he was inducted into the American Angus Association's Heritage Foundation.



*Keith, Wayne and Gary Parker - 1987*

A series of important landmarks tell the story of our progression and one of the most significant was the creation of the Stevenson Basin marketing entity. In 1972, Wayne and his wife Marian left Stevenson Angus Ranch and founded Basin Angus Ranch. Sharing common goals and philosophies, the two ranches Stevenson Angus and Basin Angus started operating as separated entities with shared herd sire ownership and shared marketing efforts. In 1982, the desire to strengthen the joint marketing efforts was formalized with the creation of Stevenson Basin Inc. For the next twenty-six years, this was the official marketing entity for the Stevenson families for cattle and semen sold. Stevenson Basin eventually added Stevenson's Diamond Dot and R&S Angus along with herd cooperators to formulate the single largest seedstock source in America. Peak marketing years culminated with annual bull sales surpassing 3,000 bulls and 4,000 bred heifers. A proud part of our history and critical era for Stevenson Angus, Stevenson Basin was a massive collective effort

achieving levels of success rarely seen. Though not an easy decision, it was eventually time for every family unit to go their own way. In 2008, the combined marketing entity of Stevenson Basin held its last joint offering. The individual ranches then moved forward working independently at their own pace, in their own manner and with their own goals.

The Keith and Roberta Stevenson family still own Stevenson Angus Ranch. In literally growing up with the herd and promoting the breed he loved, Keith was active at a young age in both FFA and 4H as a ten-year member. Before the organization of a junior association, Keith's mother Jeanette started an Angus Heifer Club giving the local kids an opportunity to show, compete and promote their growing herds. Keith was nominated and participated in the first National Junior Angus Showmanship contest in Lexington, KY in 1967.



**Keith Stevenson**

While attending Montana State University, Keith was actively involved with the livestock, meats and dairy judging teams traveling much of the country for those competitions. Keith and Roberta Stevenson were married in 1968. The following year Keith completed degrees in Animal Science and Agricultural Education. He was first in the family to ever attend and graduate college. Together with their newborn son Darrell, the young family moved home after a year of teaching VoAg and coaching.

Eventually, Keith started committing more time serving his industry and community. He was instrumental in establishing and hosting the first Montana Angus Tour in 1974. He served as a director and president for both the Central Montana Angus Association and Montana Angus Association. Nationally, Keith was elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors and served as President for the 1992-93 term.

Keith annually attends and is a member of the National Western Stockshow. He was privileged to judge the Pens and Carload Shows. He was recognized along with his brother Wayne and mother Jeanette as U.S. Livestock Man of the Year in 1996 at that event. He was the co-honored recipient of Certified Angus Beef Seedstock Producer Award in 1996. In 2003, the producer owned bull collection facility and marketing center of ORIgen was established, he was a founding member. In 2015, he was honored with induction into the American Angus Association's Heritage Foundation.

Today, Keith and Roberta have four sons, three sons and their families are actively involved at home: Darrell, Sara and their children CJ and Claire. Sara is the current president of the Montana Angus Auxiliary and has volunteered service at multiple Angus Foundation events. Bob, Robin and their twins Teller and Armani are involved where Bob is a licensed Embryo Technician and Certified CUP Lab Technician. Jake, Deanna and the newest granddaughter Zandy are also home. Son Michael and his wife Dinah live and work in Baton Rouge, LA.

Youth activities including the National Junior Angus Association, Montana Junior Angus Association, 4-H and FFA are important to our family and critical for raising the next generation of agriculturalists. As started and taught by Grandma Jeanette, involvement and service are relevant contributions to business and industry. Bob served as Vice-Chairman of the National Junior Angus Association Board (1995-1997). We are quite proud that Darrell (1988-1989), Michael (1990-1991), Bob (1994-1995), Jake (1998-1999) and now CJ (2016-2017) all served the Montana FFA as State Officers. Michael was fortunate enough to serve as a National FFA Officer (1991-1992). Each son is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. After each son and their

wives graduated from college, they returned home. Angus runs deep in this family and there is no doubting the ingrained passion for continuing the family legacy with the youngest generation.



*Featured Article  
in 1960  
Montana Farmer  
Stockman*

This year will mark the 56th Annual Production Sale for Stevenson Angus Ranch. Started in 1961, when Keith was just a teenager, he's been part of or conducted every one of those events. Keith has had an indelible influence on creating, building and continuing that legacy for his family and the Angus breed. Today, Keith lives only a few hundred yards from the house where he grew up. The grandkids CJ, Claire, Teller, Armani and Zandy are all at home and have the opportunity to live and learn, right beside Grandpa, all aspiring to become the next generation of Angus enthusiasts.



*1963 Montana Winter Fair*

# The Bulls

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In 1969, Grandpa Jamie outlined the goals and mission of his family operation in these words in his annual sale book: “Not only rate of gain and pounds are considered at Stevensons, we are constantly alerted to the need to conserve those traditional advantages of the Angus. Easy calving, plenty of milk, natural mothering ability and ability to rustle for themselves on the range; lose any of these and the breed is in trouble. Our aim is to keep a well-rounded program going, always looking for a better herd sire, always trying to learn a little more about our cattle so that we will be able to better serve you, our customers.” More than five decades later, we still operate on those same principles, using all the new technologies while adhering to the basics that Grandpa Jamie instilled within us.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. After nearly seven decades as Angus breeders, we still strive to maintain a high level of quality – from top to bottom. Over the years the herd sires have changed, but the type and kind hasn’t. Many bulls have roamed these pastures in the Judith Basin, and some have received national as well as international recognition. These few cornerstone sires merit special recognition for their contribution to both Stevenson Angus and the entire industry.



**Meadowmere Lad 2**

Grandpa Jamie fondly described the herd sire that put us on the map in this way: “For us to tell about **MEADOWMERE LAD 2** is just like talking about one of the family. We bought him from Meadow Lane Farms in '58. When we bought him, his dam was considered to be one of the greatest cows that had been brought to America. Many of his sons have been high gaining calves in Production Testing Centers. Any way you look at it, he has proven himself to be a cattleman’s kind of bull.” That innovative spirit of bringing new genetics to Montana and the emphasis on using herd sires from great cows has been deeply ingrained in every generation since the founder.

Descending from Grandpa Jamie’s 1958 purchase of *Meadowmere Lad 2*, the Pathfinder Sire **JRS BAR LAD 71**, who was born in 1971, put extra pounds on his calves and left a group of daughters who are the matriarchs of many of our oldest and strongest cow families.



**JRS Bar Lad 71**



**Willabar Gay Gordon 67A**

A few of the old timers remember that the very first, original performance test was started in our neighboring

Judith Basin town of Stanford. Lloyd Schmidt operated the Performing Index Center where Grandpa Jamie purchased three imported Canadian bulls. Born in 1969, two of the three, **WILLABAR GAY GORDON 95A** and **WILLABAR GAY GORDON 67A**, continued service in our breeding program for many years. Looking back, 67A had as much of a maternal influence in our herds as any one sire with a large percentage of our current cow base tracing to him.

One of Wayne’s proudest achievements was the production of **BASIN Q BAR 163** in 1973. Internationally respected as a sire of great Angus females, he ranked among the top two sires in the entire Angus breed for Milk EPD in all three of the first National Sire Evaluation Reports. Like Jumbo, Q Bar bred cows in pasture past ten years of age and produced daughters whose udder structure combined both heavy milk production and longevity. Q Bar can be found in the pedigrees of a long list of breed-leading maternal trait sires.

Through the late 70’s and early 80’s, the **BLUEBIRD LAD OF GMH 41** bull was yet another Canadian bred bull that impacted our breeding programs and eventually many others worldwide. A son, **LAD 118K OF JRS**, was sold in 1979 to N Bar Land and Cattle and eventually became known as the maternal grandsire to the legendary **N BAR EMULATION EXT.**



**Basin Q Bar 163**



**QAS Traveler 23-4**

Wayne's decision to join forces with several other leading Montana Angus breeders to purchase **QAS TRAVELER 23-4** as the \$60,000 top-selling bull of the 1979 Treasure Test Station Sale will always be remembered as one of the most important in the history of our family. As a major A.I. Stud, he would initiate a new phase within the industry and go on to be the all-time high sales volume bull in the history of the American Breeders Service A.I. Stud, the largest A.I. organization in the world. *Traveler* needs no introduction to anyone who has looked at an Angus pedigree over the past three decades and his genetics can be found throughout the world.

Wayne purchased **GDAR RAINMAKER 340** from fellow Montana Angus breeder Russ Denowh. Born in 1983, he was known as one of the breed greats for maternal production, *Rainmaker* was a vital influence for improving udder structure and milk production. This maternal significance is still impacting the breed today.



**GDAR Rainmaker 340**



**Rambo 465T of JRS**

Keith raised the first major sire to be featured in the Select Sires A.I. Stud, **RAMBO 465T**

**OF JRS**. A carcass bull before his time, *Rambo* consistently ranked among the top one third of progeny-tested sires for both Marbling EPD and Ribeye EPD. As the emphasis of the beef industry has shifted to carcass merit, the influence of *Rambo* and his daughters grew in popularity and recognition.

A decade after his birth, the 1987 and 1988 calf crops produced two major herd sires featuring the genetics of their foundation sire, *Traveler*. **MED ROCK TRAVELER JR**, a son of *Traveler* would become a breed leader for MILK EPD and follow his sire to the ABS Global A.I. Stud. **GT MAXIMUM**, the top-performing and top-selling bull of the 1989 Wisconsin State Bull Test, would start a chain of events that made his dam the most recognized and valuable daughter of *Traveler* in the world. Sired by *Scotch Cap*, *Max* brought superior growth and carcass genetics to our program. For several years he was the most popular sire with ABS Global. The growth and carcass excellence of *Max* in combination with the generations of high maternal genetics concentrated within our herds opened the door to a new era for our operation. **BASIN MAX 602C**, the featured ABS Global total performance sire by *Max* from a dam who combines *Rainmaker* and *Q Bar*, is a classic example of stacked Stevenson Basin genetics. A truly influential sire, *602C* over-exceeded our expectations with literally more than a thousand of his sons selling into the commercial sector. They could work anywhere and add depth and volume like no other bull in the breed.



**Med Rock Traveler Jr**



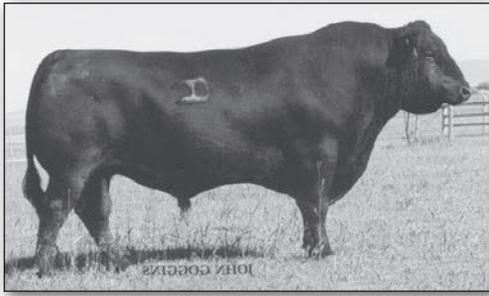
**Basin Max 602C**

Grandpa looked to Canada for new genetics in the 60's and 70's and with that same mindset we continued through the 80's and 90's with the addition of the *Fortune* sire line and sampling sons from various other sires throughout the industry. Specifically the two *Fortune* bred bulls to greatly influence our programs were known as **KANSAS** and **SENSATION** from the 1989 and 1990 calf crops. Each contributed great sons and daughters to our gene pool.



**Stevenson Fortune 425C**

Until 1993, the original Stevenson Angus Ranch used the JRS prefix for females and suffix for bulls that represented the initials of the founder, Jamie Stevenson. 1993 was a calf crop of herd bulls including **BASIN MAX 602C** of ABS Global, **STEVENSON FORTUNE 425C** of Alta Genetics, **STEVENSON ROYCE 741C** of Alta Genetics, **STEVENSON MAXIMUM 42C** of Alta Genetics and **STEVENSON MAX 930C** of Semex Las Lilas of Argentina. *425C*, *741C*, and *42C* were all featured bulls for Alta Genetics throughout the United States, Canada, Australia



Stevenson Royce 741C

and New Zealand while also seeing heavy use throughout all of South America and South Africa. One of our first bulls exported to Argentina was **TYRONE** in 1985. However it would be **STEVENSON MAXIMUM 930C** who was exported and eventually became the most widely distributed bull through the Argentinean based Semex of Las Lilas and was the number two recorded bull in Argentina for registrations in 2007. A son of 741C, **STEVENSON BRUNO**



Stevenson Max 930C

**561G**, eventually followed his sire to the Alta Genetics A.I. stud to also headline their sire roster and be used internationally.

The dam of 741C offered a classic example of our search for outcross genetics. *Estella* was selected by Keith from the neighboring Ahlgren Angus herd in Montana, she was sired by a bull featuring New Zealand Angus genetics from a dam by the Canadian import known as *Pacesetter*. Staying in production until eighteen years of age this grand old matron raised many herd bulls including **NUGGET 801X** of ABS Global, **MAXIMUM 801A** of Accelerated Genetics, **STEVENSON FORTUNE 801D** of Semex Las Lilas and possibly her best female producing son, **STEVENSON ROLLING THUNDER**. All of the *Estella* born sons added bone, volume and substance with excellent foot and leg structure and added scrotal circumference. Her influence will be felt through many future generations.



Gardens Expedition

In the spring of 1998, we felt the need to inject the highly accurate and predictable genetics of *N Bar Emulation EXT*. Our search took us to Kansas where Keith and Darrell found and purchased **GARDENS EXPEDITION** as a long fall yearling. *Expedition* would eventually be available through ABS Global and sell volumes of semen into commercial heifer breeding projects. With the implementation of ultrasound data, *Expedition* was discovered to be *EXT*'s highest IMF EPD son. Many of our current high scanning individuals have *Expedition* in their pedigree, a nice alternative high carcass bull considering that he was one of the easiest fleshing bulls to walk our pastures.

Another turning point took place in the year 2000. Two of the breed's highest performance herd sires came to Stevenson Basin. Both sons of the growth leading **VERMILION DATELINE 7078** were purchased from our good friend and respected industry leader Pat Goggins of Billings, MT. Keith bought into **VERMILION YELLOWSTONE** as one of the first young bulls to be identified and sold with ultrasound data. He was a true breed leader for IMF EPD and weaning and yearling growth. Few bulls have been able to combine these antagonistic traits of growth, muscle and marbling like *Yellowstone*. *Yellowstone* has



Vermilion Payweight JS47

headlined the Genex A.I. stud growth sires. The other mainstay addition selected by Doug was **VERMILION PAYWEIGHT JS47**. He was specifically added for length of body and overall performance and he did just that.



In 2003, one of our landmark decisions took place. Feeling the need for an alternative source for collecting, marketing and distributing semen, Stevenson Angus stepped up as a co-founder to create the promising **ORigen** company. Combing efforts with other industry-leading breeders including Basin Angus, Express Ranches, Summitcrest, Sydenstricker Genetics, Edwards Angus, Three Trees



Ranch and Dick Beck with the idea of a cooperatively owned "Breeder to Breeder" genetic service company. Opened in 2004, **ORigen** offered a state of the art bull housing and collection facility south of Billings, MT. The facility was designed for the optimum combination of bio-security, comfort and safety for bulls residing there. The **ORigen** ABS joint marketing system is available to any and all owners of seedstock beef bulls.

**ORigen**  
Breeder to Breeder  
Genetic Services

Today, **ORigen** is continually breaking records. Fiscal year 2015, **ORigen** collected just shy of 500,000 units of semen and it looks like that record will easily be broken again this year. The ABS marketing agreement has proven to be an extraordinary partnership with nearly 100,000 units of semen moved through that system alone this year. With all of the channels of distribution, **ORigen** is marketing more semen every year. The ownership is proud of the industry confidence and continues to reinvest with more improvements to the facility. An additional thirty-stall barn and office expansion in 2016 will help add to the growing business and customer needs. This commitment to infrastructure improvement will provide more room for bulls, improved health management systems and additional collection space.

In 2003, one of the most influential herd bulls was identified when we purchased a share of **BOYD ON TARGET 1083**. He created much interest in terms of pedigree, numbers and phenotype and from 2005 to 2007; *On Target* led all semen sales with ORigen. A sire of herd bulls, his legacy grew with progeny topping many sales throughout the country. His most notable son would be **STEVENSON MONEYMAKER R185** who topped our sale at \$100,000 and then went on to be re-syndicated through Express' Big Event for a total valuation of \$810,000. Another breed leading son included the \$37,500 **STEVENSON BULLSEYE 3R11**.



**Boyd On Target 1083**

With the evolving ability to identify superior carcass genetics through harvestable data, ultrasound and DNA a new bloodline was introduced. One bull, born in 2003, topped our sale at \$51,000. At that time, **STEVENSON BENCHMARK N190** held the number one IMF EPD for Young and Proven Sire Summaries.



**Stevenson CE Deluxe 1914**

Two more sires with promising impact were **STEVENSON CE DELUXE 1914** born in 2004 and **STEVENSON ONLINE 1150** born in 2006. With proven data, *CE Deluxe* dominated as an industry leading bull for calving ease, marbling and milk. Still today, twelve years later, he ranks in the top 1% of the breed for MARB EPD, MILK EPD and \$B. *Online* was a growth trait leader with outstanding carcass.

For us and the rest of the Angus breed, we were about to be blindsided. In the fall of 2008, details of the genetic defect AM were announced. That followed three months later with NH, and a year and half later with details of yet another genetic defect named CA. Our four big losses were

*On Target*, *CE Deluxe*, *Online* and *Benchmark*. All four were positioned to establish themselves as breed leading contributors. Although quite tragic for the lost individuals, we were grateful to where science and technology had evolved. No matter how difficult, it's better to know and evaluate cattle for every trait, genetic defects included. We believe it's better to have full information and manage it appropriately rather than to be breeding blind. The responsibility of the Angus Association and consequently us as breeders is "to protect the integrity of the breed." In this case, breed purity was tested with genetic defects. Science has identified more genetic conditions and will likely continue. The industry has changed now and forever more, managing defects or conditions, like any other trait, becomes commonplace. Through testing, the clean progeny remain in production and the carriers are culled.

One of our quietest achievements, **STEVENSON RITO GS172**, was born in 2006. Proven the old fashioned way, *GS172* was used only in natural service. After years of service, his data continued to strengthen. He was a sure fire calving ease bull with a very competitive growth curve and appealing phenotype. He was tremendously athletic and easy fleshing. His indelible strength however is his daughters. Today, they are possibly our strongest set of producing cows. Expect to see his maternal influence for years to come.



**21AR Roundup 7005**

In searching for added muscle shape and performance, we partnered with Express Ranches, OK and Monarch Farms, LA in 2008 to purchase **21AR ROUNDUP 7005** the \$49,000 all time high selling bull from the North Dakota Angus Bull Test Sale. He was the dominating performance test winner, but more interestingly he scanned an actual 17.7 sq inch RE. He was a semen sale leader for ORigen in 2009, 2010 and 2011. There is no doubt he added muscle still ranking at the top of the breed today for RE. He was a calving ease bull with moderate milk at a time when the industry was looking for more maternal. Today, his daughters have proven to see little fallout, are very good footed and are proving to be solid production cows.

For years we witnessed a growing concern with our high altitude customers and in 2009 we attempted to accommodate. Dr Tim Holt from Colorado State University is an internationally known expert in bovine high mountain disease, which can cause congestive heart failure in cattle and is a major concern among Western beef producers. Dr Holt had worked years with our close friend Gary Parker of Shamrock Angus near Laramie, WY to develop the PAP (Pulmonary Arterial Pressure) test. To this point, PAP testing is the only successful gauge or measurement for identifying likely candidates and fallouts at higher elevations. For the PAP test to be most accurate, cattle need to live at 6,000+ feet for a minimum of six weeks before testing. For us in Hobson, this was impossible as we are at 4,250 feet. Ideally, Dr Holt wanted to be at 7,000 feet. We eventually found a facility outside of Laramie that would be willing to winter bulls for the minimum time frame and then PAP test for scoring. For an additional sort, we also PAP tested at home at the lower elevation eliminating any immediate suspects for fallout. For three years, we sent 150 bulls to Laramie to be wintered, PAP tested and sold. In a completely new and separate sale setting, we tried to specifically provide bulls that would better work for our customers at altitude. We learned a lot of new information, discovered what bloodlines to gain confidence and who to avoid. It was a great effort for those customers in the higher mountain states and worked well with our bull inventories. However the facility we were using eventually sold and the management moved on. This was a great experience, but it just couldn't last. Today there is more of a growing concern of cattle dying of congestive heart failure at lower altitudes, areas that hadn't recognized or correlated the symptoms before. PAP testing is by no means sure fire, but someday maybe science can better help this portion of the industry with a gene marker discovery. Until then, we still guarantee our bulls however the effort for optimum PAP testing comes with significantly more time and initial risk of selection.



**Cudlobe In Focus 5S**

As we chronologically present our story, there is a period of time that gets complicated to explain the herd bull influence. As will be discussed in more detail in a later section, 2008 to 2014 was an exciting time. It was truly an unprecedented, unparallel and nearly unexplainable effort to assist with developing a beef industry in the Russian Federation. In that, several herd bulls influencing the Stevenson Angus program flew under the radar for several years. Five examples include **CUDLOBE IN FOCUS 5S**, **STEVENSON HERO I216U**, **STEVENSON YOGO 612U**, **STEVENSON RITO GS172** and **STEVENSON ROCKMOUNT RX933**. They all have their own story. Understand however, thousands of head were being bred to these bulls with the majority of that progeny proof being born on a different continent with little of that data coming back through the American Angus Association. These bulls perfectly fit what was needed at the time in Russia and took some more time, if ever, to be recognized here at home. Each one however, deserves notable recognition and due credit to our long-term program.



**Stevenson Hero I216U**

**STEVENSON RITO GS172** has already been mentioned and was the least affected with the export phenom largely because his use was limited to natural service. His daughters however will be noticed today and for years to come. **CUDLOBE IN FOCUS 5S** was born in 2006 to our long time friends and customer Cublobe Angus from Alberta. We however didn't buy into 5S until 2009. **STEVENSON HERO I216U** and **STEVENSON YOGO 612U** were both born in 2008. Thus setting up three major herd bulls to be used in a market where a high percentage of their calves were being born ten time zones away.



**Stevenson Rockmount RX933**

Although slow to be recognized, *Cudlobe In Focus 5S* progeny eventually caught attention. He was a breed leading calving ease bull that would add volume, performance, scrotal and marbling. No bull sold more progeny through our sale offerings from 2010 to 2015. Sons were always in high demand and daughters are proving to be mainstay.

Having a long-time admiration for the *Hero* and then *Image Maker* sire-line for maternal influence, we used only a few units of semen and flushed one of our greatest cows, our matriarch *Pride* cow and dam of *CE Deluxe*. The only resulting bull calf was **STEVENSON HERO I216U**. Bred as a legitimate outcross to our program, we could use him nearly anywhere. His calving ease and performance figures were competitive, but his real strength was maternal. His daughters are gems; they flesh up, breed back and raise a stout calf every year. Look for years of his maternal influence to come. *Hero* was a big influence to starting herds in Russia and Kazakhstan shipping thousands of units of semen of which is still being used today to establish those breeding herds.

**STEVENSON YOGO 612U** was the best direct son of *Mytty In Focus* that we raised. *Yogo* daughters are well uddered, hard working females. Like his sire, *Yogo* offered a real curve bending set of EPDs. His sons were calving ease favorites at sale time and his daughters are moderate framed, solid producing cows. Another big exporter, *Yogo* was another chosen sire to build upon in Russia.

**STEVENSON ROCKMOUNT RX933** was the last son born to our *Pride* matriarch cow and is the youngest brother to **STEVENSON CE DELUXE 1914** and **STEVENSON HERO I216U**. Through all that export commotion, sustaining numbers at home and sourcing enough heifers to be exported, we literally saw thousands of calves sired by him in Russia before we registered our first two hundred here at home. It seemed that every spring we set up more and more for him to be bred to and they all shipped overseas. That finally slowed down and by our spring and fall sales of 2014, the industry had noticed. His sons were a top selling sire group and demand was tremendous. Although *Rockmount* semen was available through ORigen, ABS wanted to own part of him. We welcomed the partnership and for two years now, *Rockmount* has made Top Ten for ABS Global beef sales with strong outlook for the future. He is considered to be one of the leading calving ease bulls in the industry; he adds muscle shape, eye-appeal and carcass. More daughters are starting to come into production and they doing a fine job. Finally being recognized here at home, look for *Rockmount* to be an industry calving ease standard for years to come.



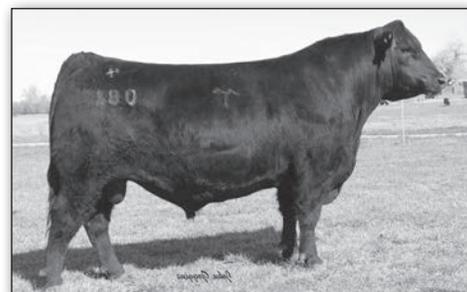
**HF Rebel 53Y**

In constantly looking for outcross genetics, we were once again drawn to Canada, this time via Denver. **HF REBEL 53Y** was the lead-off bull for Hamilton Farms' Reserve Champion Pen of bulls at the National Western Stockshow, Keith found him there. We later partnered up with TC Ranch, NE and Green Angus, MT to buy him for \$95,000 as the record high selling bull from Hamilton Farms, AB and high selling bull in Canada in 2012. *Rebel* offered a fresh, new age pedigree from age-old proven genetics. He was considered an outcross to many of the popular bloodlines and mating flexibly was unlimited. He displayed a truly impressive phenotype, structure, disposition and scrotal development with unmatched length of top and muscle shape. His progeny were overwhelmingly accepted with

over 30 sons averaging \$9600 in our Fall 2014 sale. His first daughters have proven to have beautiful udder shape with added milk production. He is very sound footed and progeny look to carry that on.

We further diversified our involvement in the technological side of the industry with the creation and founding of a new in vitro fertilization (IVF) company. With Darrell's ongoing involvement in Russia and the development of the *Stevenson Sputnik* venture, his knowledge and association grew with In Vitro Brazil, an international leader with embryo production. In creating a joint venture with them and his Russian partners in Europe, he brought the same concept home to American investors. Anchored with the ORigen partnership, **ORigen Embryo Technologies (OET)** was established and opened for business January of 2014. With IVF you can aspirate a cow every two weeks with no super ovulation drugs involved. The cow literally sees a chute once and you can continue to aspirate her into pregnancy. There are no more headaches of synchronizing, managing a shot regime and running donors through a chute everyday. Cost was comparable to traditional ET, however, input was drastically less, production levels were competitive and most importantly, the donor cow stays in production. In our first year of production, OET custom produced more than 30,000 embryos. Ranked immediately as one of the nation's top IVF providers, OET has had tremendous start up success.

About this time, *AAR TEN X 7008 SA* was swelling with demand. He was an industry leader in semen sales and registrations and for good reason. We patiently waited to find his best son. We believe **THOMAS BIG RIVER 4081** has surfaced as that son. To us, he is super fronted, clean sheathed and offers incredible dimension and muscle. We expect him to enhance our calving ease arsenal while adding more growth and carcass with better fertility. He descends from an outstanding cow family, possibly the best ever from Thomas Angus, OR. In 2015 he topped their sale for \$50,000 and in 2016 we partnered with Thomas and TC Ranch, NE as a full partner in the bull. Heavily used this spring, expect a large number of progeny for years to come.



**Thomas Big River 4081**

Initial progeny proof has revealed another outstanding sire. Proven as a pasture service bull, **STEVENSON CATALYST 41044** first calves born in 2016 recorded an average 94 BR and 103 WWR. With such extreme performance measurements, his EPD data is chart topping. He is now destined to be a calving ease favorite. Sired by *Plattemere Weigh Up K360*, he ideally balances quick early growth with breed leading performance, carcass and dollar values. His dam is one of our *Stevenson Rito GS172* standouts.



**VIN-MAR Salute 5537**

In searching for more body, substance and length we discovered **VIN-MAR SALUTE 5537**. He was a member of Vin-Mar Cattle Co.'s 2016 Reserve Champion Carload at the NWSS. He was the second high selling bull at \$27,000 in Vin-Mar's 2016 sale. *Salute* descends from the outstanding *Joyce* cow family developed in Hobson by Uncle Wayne and Cousin Doug. At the time of his sale, his dam recorded 8 NR 111. *Salute* is a trait leader for performance and maternal. We expect him to add fleshing ability, muscle and volume. He is extremely sound with a large scrotal. We really appreciate his traditional Angus characteristics and look for many years of his influence.

The production and identification of a new generation of herd sires and cow families is an ongoing work that combines both the art and science of breeding beef cattle. No stone is left unturned as we continue to study our herds and the bull offerings industry-wide.

## The Support

Generations of cattle, generations of family and the help along the way . . . this place wouldn't be where it is today without the help that got us here. We've seen a lot of characters come and go over the years. Some were helpful and will forever be remembered. For us, there is a few which deserve recognition. In the early years, a



*1979 Sale in the Quonset*

German immigrant named Gus Brown pledged his loyalty for more than 20 years. Gene Hutchinson also started with Grandpa Jamie and stayed with us for over 40 years. John Huberty arrived in the early '80s and has been integral to operations for more than 30 years. We've had three primary veterinarians. Early on, it was Dr. Ken Bruchez and today it is Dr. Lance Hughes and Dr. Laurie Gaugler. Bernard Gremaux AI bred a lot of cows in the Judith Basin in the 70's and 80's. George Zelleck was our mountain top landlord and worked with us every day he could, for over two decades until the end. We've had periodic support for customer service with Eldon Moon, Gary Parker, Scott Van Vliet, Tom Hardesty, Ryan Hughes and Phillip Borden. Justin Huberty and Wayner Walter put in more than ten years apiece. Others have come and gone and although not mentioned, their time

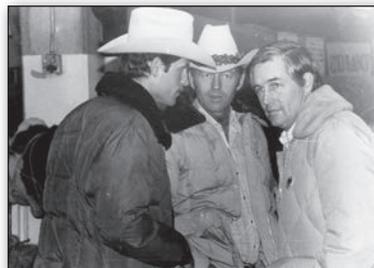
was appreciated. As a family, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone that has put in a day's work and proved loyal to the brand. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed. Thank you.



*1986 Sale in the Pole Barn*



*2005 Sale in the New Sale Facility*



*Roger Jacobs, Wayne and Keith - 1982*



*Current Sales*

# Beyond Our Borders

Over the years, the interest from foreign visitors became commonplace. The Angus world is a small world and for as long as we can remember, visitors from abroad was just part of our life. Grandpa Jamie first started trading cattle across the Canadian border as early as the 1950's. Our first South American sale was in the late 1970's. First with Uncle Wayne exporting *Powder Keg* in 1978 and then with the sale and export of *Tyrone* in 1985 both exported to Argentina. From there, ensuing semen, embryo and live cattle sales were completed to Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Great Britain, South Africa, Hungary, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russia.

We were volume suppliers of heifers for exports to Japan in 1986 and 1987. Over these two years, we shipped about 900 heifers to the Uni Producer Coop of Japan. Many of these heifers were going to family units to serve as the foundation cross for the emerging popularity of Japanese Wagyu for the production of Kobe beef. One side note of interest . . . this is where Sara and Darrell met as teenagers. The heifers were all quarantined at home, on the ranch and in order to qualify for export there were several health tests conducted. Through all of this record keeping, testing, bleeding, palpating and processing heifers, Sara accompanied her Dad, exporter Craig Winterburn of Montana International Livestock, Helena, MT in completing this daunting task.

During this period, the implementation and utilization of AI and ET were becoming more commonplace. International semen and embryo sales were ramping up. Stevenson Basin bulls at that point and into the 90's were beginning to top semen markets in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. Two bulls *Traveler* and *Max* topped all beef sales for ABS Global while *Rainmaker 654X* and *Maximum 930C* led sales in South America. Embryos were being shipped from Eastern Europe to South America with promising demand.

Early in the 90's, Keith and Roberta traveled to and confirmed a long-term partnership with Las Lilas of Argentina. Several herd bulls were exported throughout the 90's with each standing in stud for collection for the newly established Las Lilas Division of Semex. *930C* led volume sales and registrations for several years while the *Rainmaker* sons made significant impact in developing a stronger maternal cow base for the country's growing Angus herd. In 1998, we exported one of *EXT*'s best sons to Pec Plan ABS of Brazil. In time, the cost effectiveness of collecting and shipping semen overcame the export of the live herd bulls.

Australasia has long time been a friend of our program. For nearly three decades, we've developed several long time friends and customers. It's been a perennial market for semen and/or embryos. Darrell and Sara traveled to New Zealand in 1997 and were able to connect with many customers and view *425C* and *741C* progeny. Consequently, two purebred New Zealand bulls were imported and sampled here at home. Looking for outcross heterosis within the breed proved insubstantial, however long-term soundness and fleshing ability was admired for generations from these outcrosses.



*Inspecting herd bulls at Las Lilas of Argentina, a leading multi-breed genetic provider and longtime business associate and customer.*



*Herd visit with friend and customer Turihaua Angus Stud of New Zealand, breeder of Angus cattle for more than a century*

In 2000, Darrell had the opportunity to join a group of predominately Montana Angus breeders on a Trade Mission sponsored by the Montana State Department of Agriculture to Argentina. Time was spent at the largest Angus Show in the country, the historic Palermo in Buenos, Aires. Montana genetics were prevalent with every ranch visited and the trade delegation was well received. Several of the industry's top breeders were along and had solid opportunities into that market. Eventually, more embryos were exported.

That value didn't measure in comparison to the lessons learned and the in-depth exposure to a still developing beef market.

Although strongly established and at that time the largest consuming beef nation in the world with an average of more than 110 lbs of beef per person per year, it was still an apparently evolving industry. No doubt that in Argentina, beef cattle and ranching was a noble trade, there was a proud and successful history. Through our eyes however, we were witnessing significant internal domestic growth, a growing Angus breed and rural development that looked like America did fifty years ago and that stuck hard. As Americans we so often take for granted the establishment of our country, our government stability, the value of our currency, the acceptance and progressiveness of our society and in general the strength of our economy. In trying to not be too political, the fact of the matter is that the American beef industry is reaching a degree of maturity. To see and experience first hand what a partially emerging market looks like is a real eye opener. There are still tremendous opportunities in the beef industry, however now understanding that some of those opportunities are outside of this country. These provoking thoughts had long lasting impact, being revisited in Russia a few years later.

## Russia

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In 2007, Darrell was invited to join another Trade Mission with the Department of Agriculture from the State of Montana. This Trade Mission was the first of its kind for Montana as we were to visit Moscow, Russia and the largest agricultural exhibition in the country, the Golden Autumn Trade Show.



This was the first time meeting of Sergey Goncharov and Sasha Buzaleev, the pioneering owners of Sputnik. An old collective farm, Sputnik was bought in the early 2000's. In time, a strong relationship was built between Goncharov, Buzaleev and Darrell. In 2010, the three of them formalized a joint venture named Stevenson Sputnik. Together they acquired land and set out to establish a core nucleus-breeding herd in the region of Voronezh. Buzaleev and Goncharov were confronted with establishing the ranching unit from scratch. Darrell had to figure out how to quarantine, health test and ship 1,434 head of cows and 6 horses 5,000 miles away across the Atlantic, to another continent ten time zones to the East before winter. The challenge was completed and the adventure was just beginning.

Over the next four years, Darrell would assist with exportation of nearly 14,000 head of cattle to Russia and Kazakhstan. They were transported by Boeing 747s from Chicago OHare and by sea traveling in containers or livestock vessels departing from Wilmington, DE, East Port, ME or Galveston, TX. Additional units to Stevenson Spuntik were added with Angus Shestakovo in 2011 and Zylony Lug in 2012.

As fast as the live cattle export market exploded in the USA, it dried up and went away. What Darrell considered being a window of opportunity for five to ten years lasted only four. Stevenson Sputnik has shifted its primary focus to commercial beef production. The project is now totally vertically integrated with their own abattoir and restaurants in St Petersburg. Every ranching unit is completely operated by the Russians. As of today, the American help has all come home. There have been noticeable management improvements over the last couple of years. They have evolved from simply surviving to actually operating. The major concerns of nutrition, feed supply and general health have gotten under control. The combined units of Stevenson Sputnik, Angus Shestakovo and Zylony Lug now swell to over 50,000 acres. The total project will calve 7,500 cows this summer.



## Sunset

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As a family, our bedrock is Angus cattle. They have forged many new friends, created life-changing experiences and taken us around the world. We are all truly grateful for the opportunity to do what we love, tend to our cattle. There's much left to be done and you can rest assured our best years are still ahead. The Black Soil of Russia and Steppes of Kazakhstan openly welcomed our way of life and kind of cattle, but our life is home in the Judith Basin. It's treated us well, and it is not a lot different than 100 years ago. The buffalo have been replaced with good Angus cattle and the Charlie Russell sunsets still bless us every night.