

An Overview of our MN State Angus Event at Cannon Falls, Minnesota

First of all we need to thank some people. Thank you to our outgoing President Dick Walser for serving three terms during a time of change for our Association. Dusty Martin was reelected and Randy Mitteness was elected as your new board member. Thank you to our outgoing Vice President and now your new President, Dusty Martin for his service and for taking on the leadership role. Thank you to outgoing board member Pete Hassing for his service on the board. We welcome Randy Mitteness to his first 3 year term on our Board of Directors.

Thank you to the Board members, Sale Committee and Robby Roeder and his crew for helping set up the arena. Thank you to our seminar speakers Alfredo DiCostanzo, Mark Schoenfeld, Zack Hall, and Bryce Schumann. They did a great job and were impressed with the questions and discussion that took place. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to address our members. Also, thank you to our Auctioneer, Al Conover, and the gals clerking, Jeanne Conover, Becky Holman, Norma Overbough, Becky Scharpe and Kelsey Gleass. Thank you to our ring men, Mike Sorenson, Bill Schermer and Paul Whitty, for their service and for the bids brought to the sale. Thank you to Robby Roeder and Larry Miller for helping with cattle in the ring.

Overall it was a successful event. The facility was excellent and we received great comments on it. Thank you to Blake, the arena manager. He was always just a phone call away. It worked out very well to have our educational Seminar and meetings at the same location as our sale. There were only a couple comments that the sale ring was too long. But I think with a little handling management, we can overcome that. After all we are showing breeding animals and the sale ring allows more room for the buyers to observe how they walk and move around. The seating is excellent. With the crowd we had, people would have had to stand at Rochester.

Overall the sale committee and board did everything right. They moved it to a weekend at an excellent facility. Our consigners brought an excellent group of cattle with pedigrees and performance. We had an excellent crowd of 250 -300 people, which means we got the word out on the sale. Unfortunately, our state sale has always followed the economy and cattle prices. Our customers obviously were not as optimistic about future beef prices. We had 58 lots that averaged \$1423.

We had a good meeting with a lot of questions and discussion. There seems to be questions coming from third parties about aspects of the association. I would like to assure the members that they are getting more information and more value in their membership than they have in the past and it is our intension to keep adding value to that membership. I would encourage our members to direct their concerns directly to their board members or Executive Secretary Treasurer, after all that is part of their job. Our member's questions, ideas, and concerns are important to us! It's our guide to making decisions for our Association. Your questions, concerns and the answers are always more clear if addressed directly to our board or Executive Secretary Treasurer.

The Junior Association and the Auxiliary both had successful meetings as well. Junior meeting attendance was up with 25 members involved in the meeting.

How about the Banquet facility and the prime rib dinner? Did anyone leave hungry? Our members enjoyed an excellent prime rib dinner. Thank you to Grandpa's Event Center crew! What a great bunch to work with. Thank to all who helped, my daughters Becky and Katelyn for selling tickets, our former president for taking tickets for the meal. Thank you to the members who donated items for the auction and the members who purchased them. The Auxiliary cake auction again was very productive bringing in a total of \$1555. This only proves our members like their dessert! The semen auction brought in \$1635 and other donated items brought in \$505 making a total of \$2140 for junior programs. Items donated for the scholarship fund brought in \$180. The auxiliary also had \$110 in donated items.

The whole event seemed more relaxed and enjoyed by our members. It was a great social event. There was so much conversation between members and families it was hard to get things started on time. This is what this is all about!

When you step back and look at the whole picture the board and sale committee did it right. Excellent sale facility and banquet facility both giving us more value for the money spent. Were there some conflicts? Yes, there were. We knew there would be, with associates to work the sale, and other sale dates. We had good people working the sale. The first weekend in March was the only date available to us at this facility and the board and sale committee agreed that the conflict with other sales would be minimal. After all, our original date also conflicted with other sales. The board and sale committee had to make these decisions for our members actively taking part in our Minnesota Sate Angus Sale. I feel the association made the right decisions with this move. As the economy gets better and beef prices improve, which they already are, the price for breeding cattle will also improve.

Thank you to our consigners for bringing an excellent set of cattle. Thank you to our customers and all who attended our state Angus event and we look forward to next year.

Jim Scharpe Executive Secretary