

# Toward 100% CAB, Prime and Climbing

Story by  
**STEVE SUTHER**

They say “records are made to be broken,” and some cattle prove it so often that an audio clip of their results would sound like a broken record. Osborn Farms, Savannah, Mo., and Beller Feedlot, Lindsay, Neb., are at it again, but the

needle skipped a few grooves closer to perfection.

Similar to fall 2009, the two have won third-quarter regional honors in the AngusSource® Carcass Challenge (ASCC) in the northeast and north central

categories. They each did it with heifers, and each from the same source as fall 2009.

One key difference is the Osborn cattle topped the northeast with the highest quality grades ever seen in a national Angus carcass contest: not only 100% *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand and CAB Prime, but 23 of the 42 heifers harvested at National Beef Packing Co. in mid-September hit that Prime upper deck.

Talk about consistency, John Osborn had recorded a 100% CAB load of steers in June, but with fewer Primes. The Missouri feeder draws only from a local, closed network of herds with stacked Angus genetics.

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## Third-quarter AngusSource Carcass Challenge winners raise the bar.

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The Beller Feedlot entry came from the familiar source, Thomas Cattle Co., through which Jimmy and Sarah operate with their son, Kenny, at Adrian, Ore., and Homedale, Idaho. Those 40 heifers came in at 22.5% Prime and 87.5% qualified for CAB at Cargill Meat Solutions, up from the 81% CAB that saw them win this regional prize last fall.

AngusSource director Sara Snider



said the ASCC “provides us with an opportunity to recognize producers and feedyards that have made the commitment to quality. The CAB acceptance rates we see each quarter are a testament to what carefully selected Angus genetics can do when they are managed to hit that top quality target.”

While contest winners are often referred to as being honored, Snider turned that around. “It’s an honor for AngusSource to recognize these two organizations for their commitment to the program, to the Angus breed and to quality,” she said. “They are certainly raising the bar for the industry, and for other contestants.”

The national CAB acceptance rate was 23.2% in 2010, up from 14% in 2006. By contrast, four other Osborn Farms entries in the third quarter exceeded 90% CAB and Prime.

With more than 140,000 head enrolled in AngusSource during the fiscal year that closed Sept. 30, Snider said, “We know that there are a lot of these calves in the country. We encourage CAB licensed feeders with pens of AngusSource calves to enter the contest.” There are no entry fees. Besides the regional quarterly prizes, year-end overall awards go to the top five pens, with a top award of \$500.

Fourth-quarter regional winners will be named at the end of this calendar year, when the overall annual results will be tabulated. For more information on AngusSource or the ASCC, call 816-383-5100 or visit [www.AngusSource.com](http://www.AngusSource.com).

The fourth quarter concludes in December 2010.

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