

CAB Recognizes Monthly Honorees

Story by
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Barton County Feeders Inc., Ellinwood, Kan., is the November 2004 Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Feedlot Partner of the Month. The 18,000-head-capacity feedlot managed by Cap Proffitt is part of the BKT feeding group that includes Knight Feedlot Inc. at Lyons, Kan., and Thomas County Feeders Inc., Colby, Kan. The feedyard has been licensed since May 2002.

"Cap has a strong interest in the CAB Feedlot-Licensing Program (FLP), and

his efforts to enroll more cattle, especially since August, have been stellar," says Gary Fike, CAB feedlot specialist.

Doug Richmeier, a recent hire by Royal Beef in Scott City, Kan., has only been a CAB Quality Assurance (QA) officer since August. It was quickly apparent that he excelled in enrolling cattle, sending in timely requests for carcass data and helping to make Royal Beef a CAB Premier Partner. Since he accepted the responsibility, Richmeier has enrolled more than 10,000 head of cattle — 10 times more than the company had enrolled in 2004 prior to August.



"Doug's commitment to CAB has been outstanding," Fike says, "and we're proud to recognize him as QA Officer of the Month for November 2004."

CAB honors partners that harvest "30.06" groups of cattle, with at least a 30% Prime or CAB-acceptance rate with an allowance for 3% Yield Grade (YG) 4s and 3% carcasses weighing more than 975 pounds (lb.). A summary of accomplishments from November reports is presented in Table 1.

Featured lot

Bobi Hall, Rohnert Park, Calif., follows a family tradition of looking for improvement. But she doesn't make drastic changes after she finds what works. A good share of her cattle hit the CAB carcass target year after year, and she has no intention of switching targets.

Hall's father was always willing to experiment with new ideas, but he stuck with the ones that worked. He started the U2 Ranch in the 1940s, and while a variety of changes have been made during the last 60 years, Angus cattle have been a part of the ranch for the last 35.

When Hall sent 130 cattle to a CAB-licensed feedlot partner three years ago, it was another experiment. The relationship with Hergert Feeding Co., Mitchell, Neb., has continued to grow, and this year Hall decided to retain 10% ownership through the feeding phase.

"It is only a small portion because I was afraid to do it and really didn't understand how it worked," Hall explains. "But it has been really

interesting, and I have learned a lot."

The anxiety has been worth it. Hall's cattle from November finished at 30% CAB acceptance with 33.3% reaching YG 1 and 2 (see Table 1). In addition to receiving carcass premiums, the information allows Hall to see how her cattle compare to industry standards.

Tracking cattle through their entire life cycle is important to Hall. Most producers don't bother with cattle once they leave the farm, but Hall says every piece of information gives her one more management tool to improve the cattle.

"We are learning how to process our carcass data as we go," she says. "I am currently waiting to get the individual information back, and once I get the chance to mull through it all, I will see exactly what is happening."

There are no shortcuts when it comes to processing information. "Picking each calf to pieces," she says, requires careful attention to every factor that can improve future generations.

Hall always thought she had quality cattle. The data she gets back from CAB is starting to prove that. Despite recent success, there is room for improvement. Using the CAB carcass target as her benchmark, Hall hopes to continue the legacy of guided change started by her father.



Table 1: Summary of 30.06 qualifiers from November 2004 harvest reports^a

Licensed CAB® Feedyard	Head	Sex ^b	%YG 1&2	%CAB	%Prime
Gregory Feedlots Inc.	35	H	94.3	51.6	17.1
Decatur County Feed Yard	18	H	66.7	50.0	5.6
Decatur County Feed Yard	10	S	50.0	37.5	0.0
Beef Northwest/Nyssa	41	S	56.1	30.8	0.0
Hergert Feeding Co.	21	S	33.3	30.0	0.0

^aIn the On-Target "30.06" program, the FLP honors partners that harvest qualifying groups of cattle with at least a 30% Prime or CAB-acceptance rate with an allowance for 3% YG 4s and 3% carcasses weighing more than 975 lb. There is no minimum group size because sorting is encouraged to bring out the best in each animal.

^bH=heifers; M=mixed; S=steers.

Call (785) 539-0123 or visit www.cabfeedlots.com for a complete and current list of feedlot licensees.

ON TARGET
30.06