

2005 NACC ends, new contest year begins

by **STEVE SUTHER**

The 2005 National Angus Carcass Challenge (NACC) entered its final days with more than 8,000 entered cattle and

some of the nation's best represented on the leader board (see www.cabpartners.com). At press time, there were still a few pens to close out, and rankings could change.

NACC is designed to find the highest-

value group of Angus-sired cattle, with value discovery and recognition for winners, says Mark McCully, director of supply development for Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB). The brand sponsored

NACC last year, along with Alltech Inc., *Drovers* magazine, Farnam Co. Inc., Merial and the American Angus Association's AngusSourceSM program.

The contest is open to anyone with at least 40 steers or heifers sired by registered Angus bulls and fed in CAB-approved feedlots. Participants get individual carcass data to identify genetics and manage to realize herd potential, McCully says. The NACC ranks carcass values of entered pens, and winners are determined by placing harvest data on a fixed-value contest grid.

2005 winners to be named

A grand prize winner and 10 top-value awards for both steers and heifers will be named Saturday morning, Jan. 14, at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo. More than \$25,000 in cash and other prize packages will be awarded. The grand champion pen in 2004 was a set of 40 heifers from Fansher Farms, Garden City, Kan., that were fed at Triangle H Grain & Cattle Co., also of Garden City. They graded 93% USDA Prime or *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand acceptance.

Although potential winning packages are attractive, knowledge and recognition remain the biggest prizes, McCully says. Angus media and cosponsor *Drovers* magazine promote the contest and publicize the winners.

The NACC was made easier to enter for 2005, no longer requiring a special contest ear tag, as long as individual tag identity was clear. As always, participants receive carcass data with ear tag number, hot carcass weight, USDA quality and yield grade, and CAB-acceptance status on each head entered. No entry fee will be assessed if the cattle are marketed through a program that provides individual carcass information at no cost to CAB.



For 2006, the contest has been expanded thanks to new sponsors that broaden the scope from conception to the plate. Sponsors now include Allflex USA, Alltech Inc., CAB, *Drovers* magazine, Merial, OriGen and AngusSource. Watch for more details about prize packages and feedlots at the CAB Web site; contact McCully at (330) 345-2333 or e-mail mmcully@certifiedangusbeef.com.