

Touring the Great Northwest

photos by **SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL & MICKY WILSON**



National Angus Tour features Idaho, Oregon stops.

Angus enthusiasts from across the country filled seven tour buses and a string of cars to begin the tour portion of “The Great Northwest Gathering” as the Idaho and Oregon Angus associations hosted the 2006 National Angus Tour Sept. 27-28. Scenic vistas, historic trails and lots of Angus cattle and conversation were the focus of the two-day event, which stretched across Idaho and into Oregon.

The tour began Wednesday with stops in Idaho at the Academy of Equine Dentistry at Glenns Ferry, 101 Ranch Inc. at King Hill, the National Fish Hatchery at Hagerman and Spring Cove Ranch at Bliss. Thursday featured stops in both Idaho and Oregon, starting at Bear Mountain Angus Ranch, Melba, Idaho; and moving on to Malson Angus Ranch, Parma, Idaho; and the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and Thomas Angus Ranch, both of Baker City, Ore.

Online coverage of the conference and tour is available at www.nationalangusconference.com.

Day 1



Above & left: Tour participants gather to take a closer look at equine dental charts and displays during a stop at the Academy of Equine Dentistry in Glenns Ferry, Idaho. A unique two-week course is offered four times each year to those interested in equine dental health.

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Above: Jim and Marie Kast of 101 Ranch Inc. at King Hill, Idaho, make introductions as grandson Kyler steals the show. 101 Ranch is a family-owned operation with more than 425 registered Angus cows.

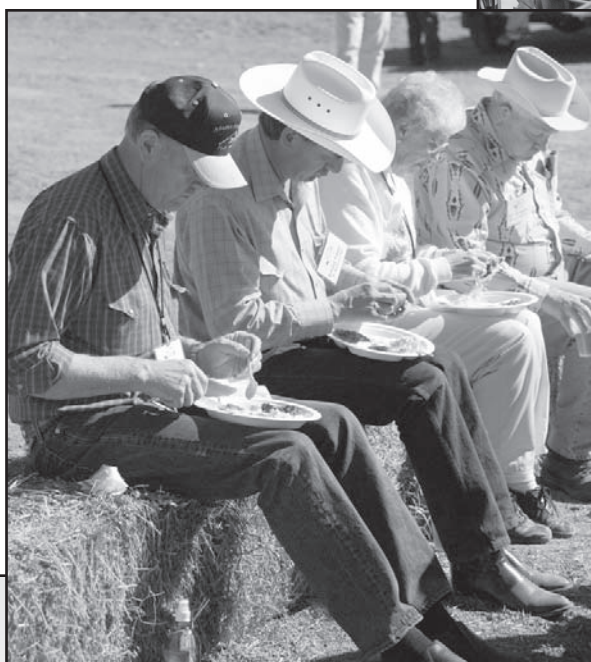
Below: Visitors to 101 Ranch look at cattle on display.



Left & below: At 101 Ranch, local vendors exhibit their specialties, including pancakes made from whole grains and Idaho-made wine.



Left: Tour participants enjoy a tri-tip lunch, sponsored by Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), at 101 Ranch.



Below: Irrigation is a big part of raising both cattle and crops in southwest Idaho. At 101 Ranch, “big guns” are used to irrigate circular areas of pasture. Additionally, water flows from a diversion pond into a 24-inch pipeline above the ranch and produces water pressure up to 120 pounds per square inch.

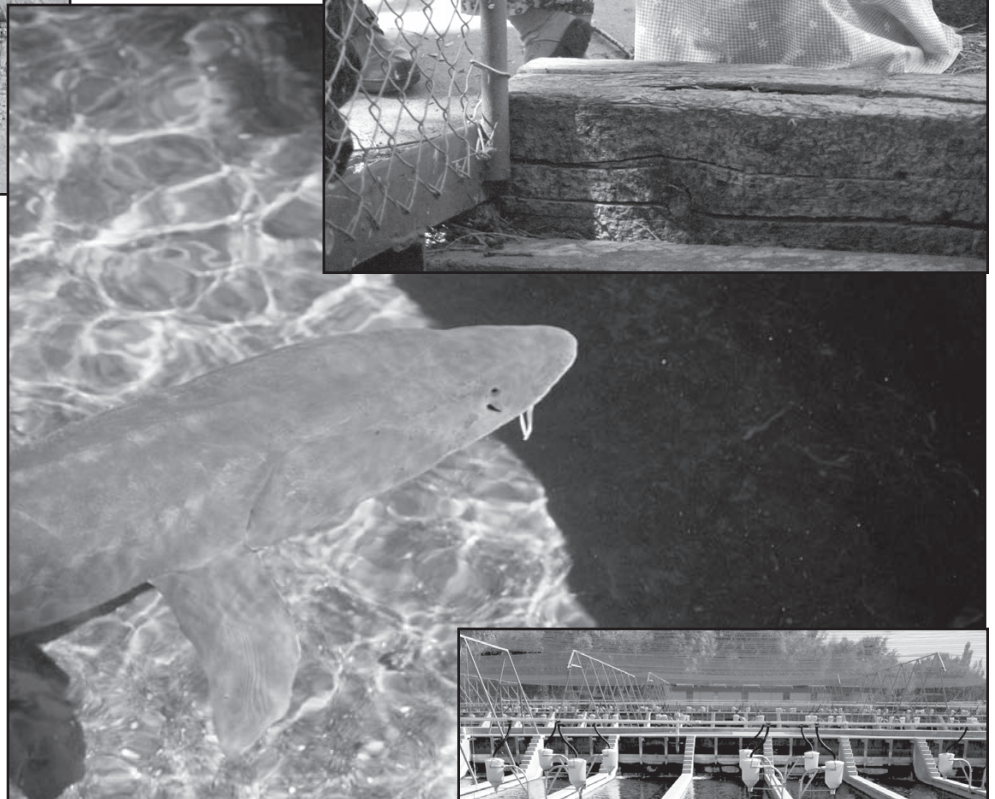
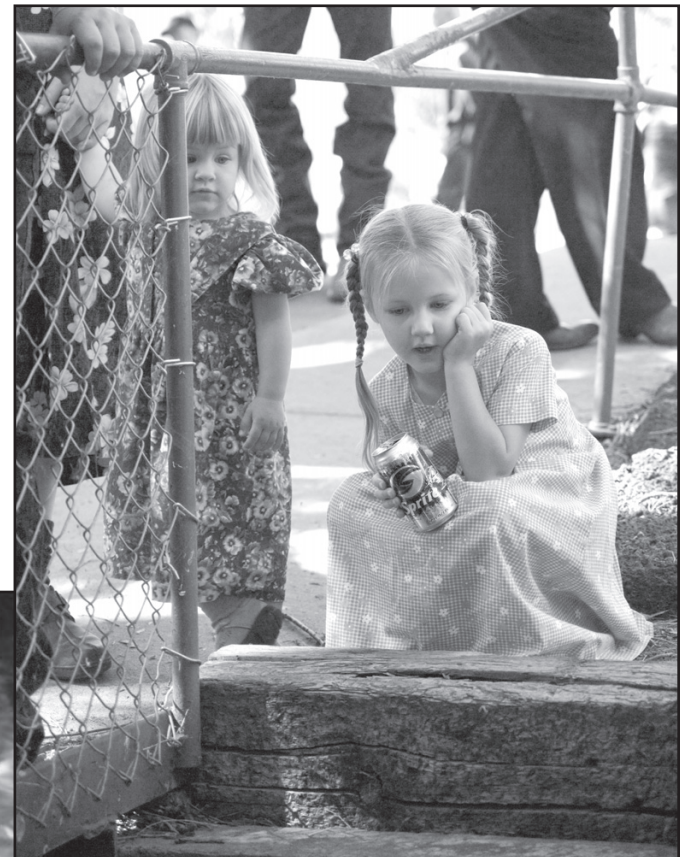




Left: Visitors to 101 Ranch enjoy time to visit with other tour participants.

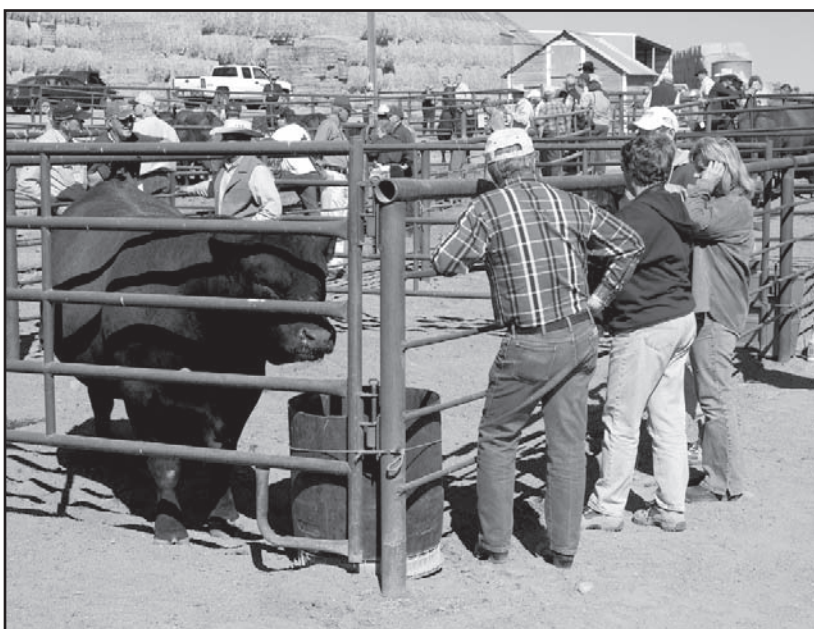
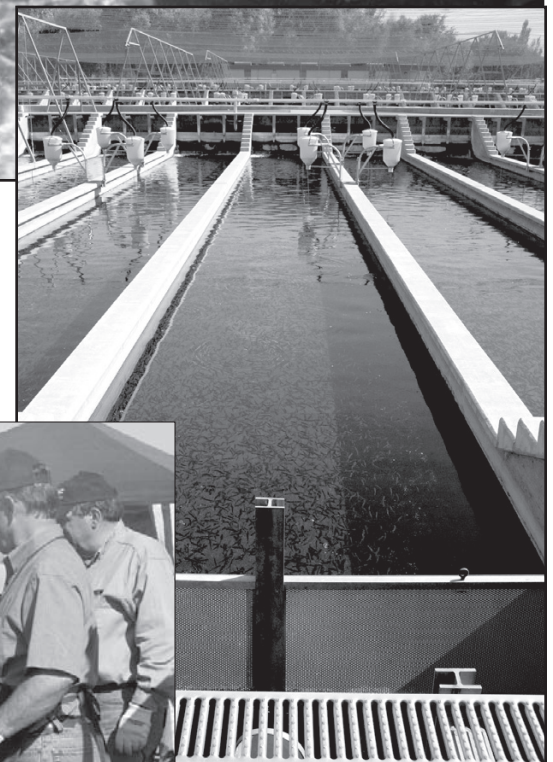
Right: Conference attendees of all ages enjoy watching the fish at the National Fish Hatchery. The National Fish Hatchery produces more than 1.5 million steelhead trout each year.

Below: Large sturgeon are a popular display at the National Fish Hatchery.



Above: "Ellie," an elk cow, has taken up permanent residence with the cow herd at 101 Ranch.

Right: Runs are filled with growing fish at the National Fish Hatchery in Hagerman, Idaho. Once the fish reach 6 to 8 inches in length, which usually takes about 11 months, they are released into Idaho rivers. Fish and wildlife workers can scan a coded wire that is implanted on some fish for tracking purposes. For every 1,000 smolts released, only three to 10 return to Idaho as adults.



Above: Tour-goers look at cattle from 101 Ranch and other area cattlemen. Calving ease and maternal traits are keys to the 101 Ranch operation.



Left: Volunteers work hard to keep conference attendees fed in a timely manner at the 101 Ranch stop.

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Left: Guests are invited to interact with sturgeon on display at Spring Cove Ranch, Bliss, Idaho. The big fish are descendants of sharks.

Right: Conference attendees view cattle on display at Spring Cove Ranch. The Butlers, owners of Spring Cove Ranch, use a private Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotment that borders their ranch to graze their herd.

Right: Members of Spring Cove Ranch and breeders with guest displays at the tour stop welcome tour participants. Spring Cove Ranch received the American Angus Association Centennial Angus Herd Award in 1983 and the Idaho Angus Association Family of the Year award in 1989.

Below: A visitor to Spring Cove Ranch looks at cattle on display while reading more about the animals. Spring Cove Ranch raises cattle in a desert environment that posts 8 inches of rain annually, so irrigation is a necessity.



Day 2



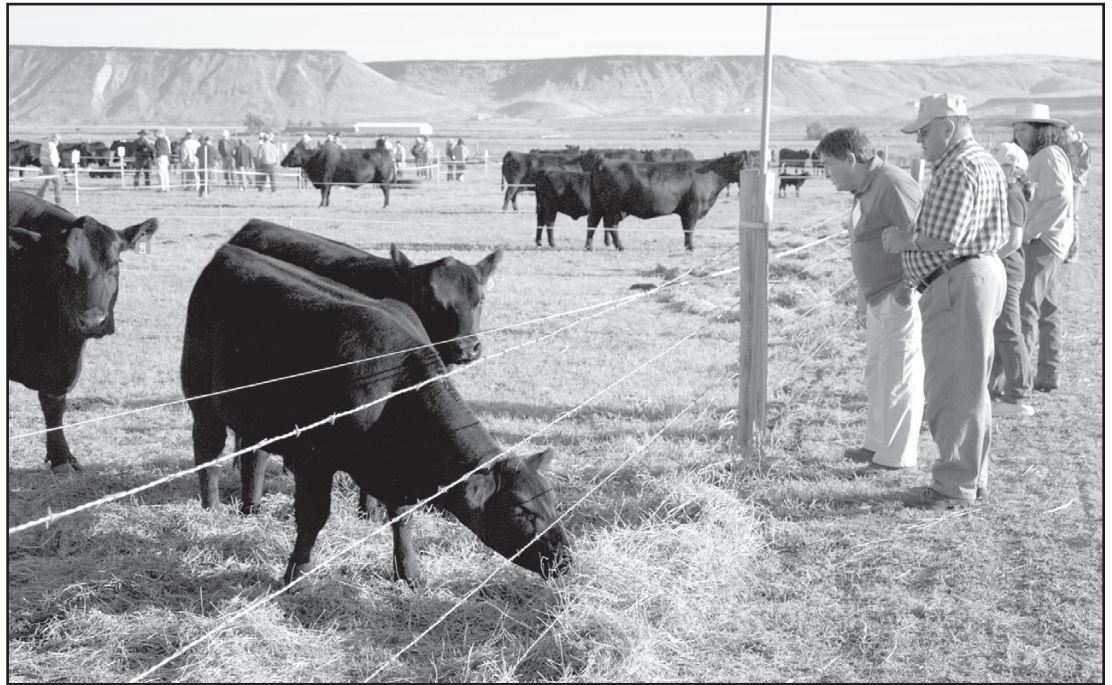
Day 2 of the National Angus Tour started at Bear Mountain Angus Ranch of Melba, Idaho. What began as a 4-H project for the Stoller family 20 years ago has grown into a registered Angus herd of nearly 400 cows.



Bear Mtn. Freight Train 350L and his progeny were on display.



Above: Tour-goers view cattle on display at Bear Mountain Angus Ranch. The Stoller family raises most of its own feed, has an intensive artificial insemination program, and calves both in the spring and in the fall.



Right: The Owyhee Mountains provide a scenic backdrop at Bear Mountain Angus Ranch.

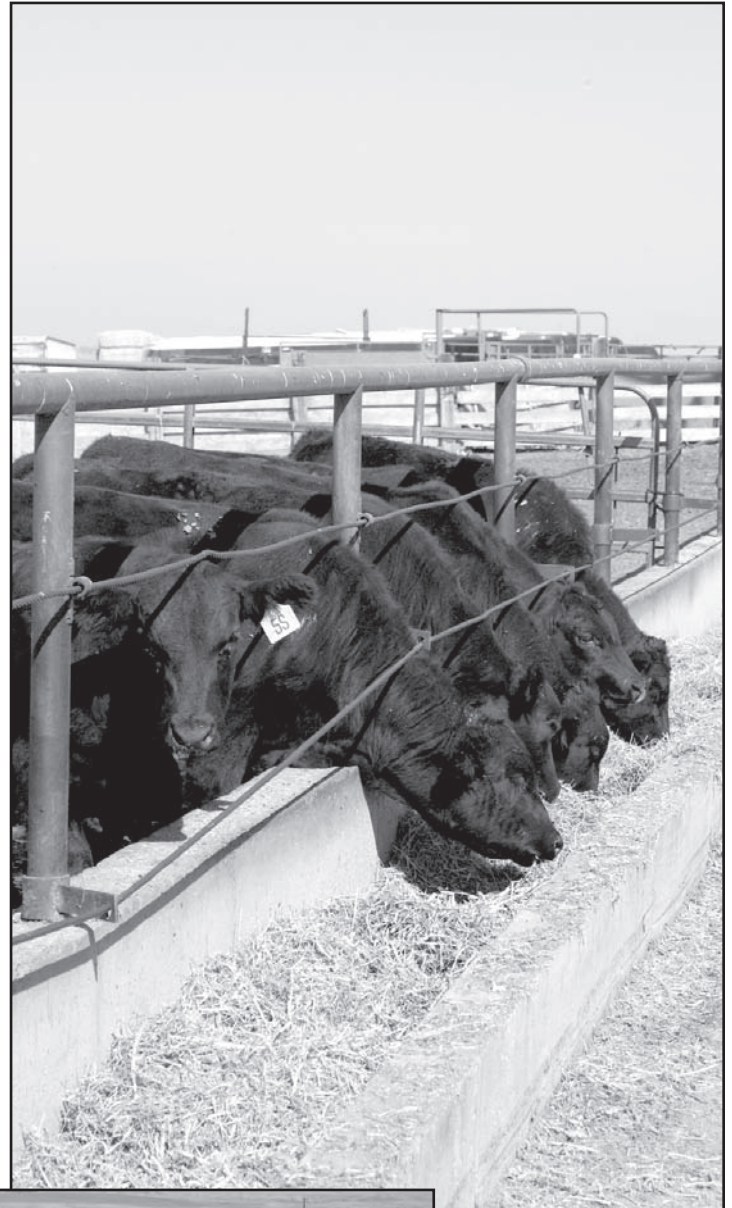


Above: Rod Wesselman, Association regional manager, introduces Carla Malson to conference attendees.



Right: Bulls at Malson Angus Ranch in Parma, Idaho, are developed on a specific feed ration and marketed to Western ranchers. The Malsons were named Idaho Angus Association Family of the Year in 1998.

Left: Students from the local National FFA Organization relax after helping serve lunch at Malson Angus Ranch. CAB donated hamburgers and frankfurters for the meal.



Left: Guest displays were part of the tour stop at Malson Angus Ranch.

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Guest herds display cattle

Idaho producers who displayed cattle at the various stops included: TLC Angus, Bliss; Frisbie Cattle Co., Melba; Bell Key Angus, Nampa; Blue Sage Acres Ranch, Emmett; WWW Cattle Co., Filer; Nelson Angus Ranch, Salmon; Salmon Tract Angus, Twin Falls; Sugar Top Angus, Jerome; Sawtooth Cattle Co., Gooding; Pristine Springs Angus, Jerome; Feasenhiser Angus, Fruitland; Gardiner Prime Angus Ranch, Porthill; Rocky Mountain Genetics, Jerome; Hillwater Angus, Parma; Weldon Farms, Weiser; and Rick Graves, Buhl.

Oregon producers who displayed cattle at the stops included Holiday Ranch, Terrebonne; Kessler Angus, Milton-Freewater; Bar KD Ranch, Culver; Brinkman Farms, Molalla; White Cattle Co., Burns; JLK Ranches Inc., Baker City; Mount View Cattle Co., Baker City; Buchanan Angus Ranch, Klamath Falls; Gardner Angus, Richland; Oregon Cattle Ranch, Hermiston; Cresnet A Ranches, Halfway; and Meadow Acres Angus, Echo.

Also, cattle from 65 Roses Ranch, Villisca, Iowa, were on display.



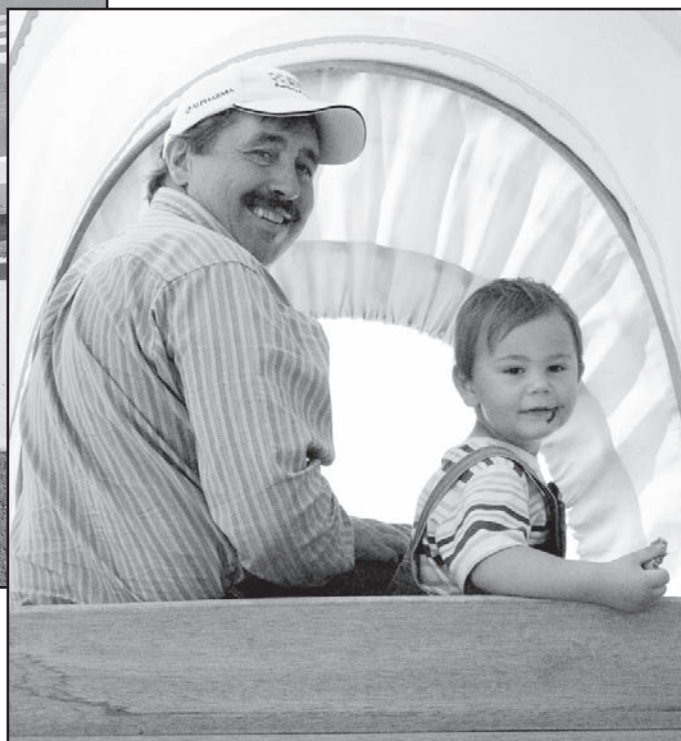
Above: Inside the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center are displays of what life was like while traveling the Oregon Trail. Many of the exhibits are based on the diaries of the pioneers.



Left: A view from the back of a covered wagon gives tour participants an idea of what pioneers saw as they traveled the Oregon Trail.



Above: Employees of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Baker City, Ore., give a welcome and introduction to the third stop of Day 2.



Right: Tour participants of all ages enjoy the hands-on activities offered at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Below: Tour participants view items used on the Oregon Trail. This stop was hosted by the Oregon Angus Association.

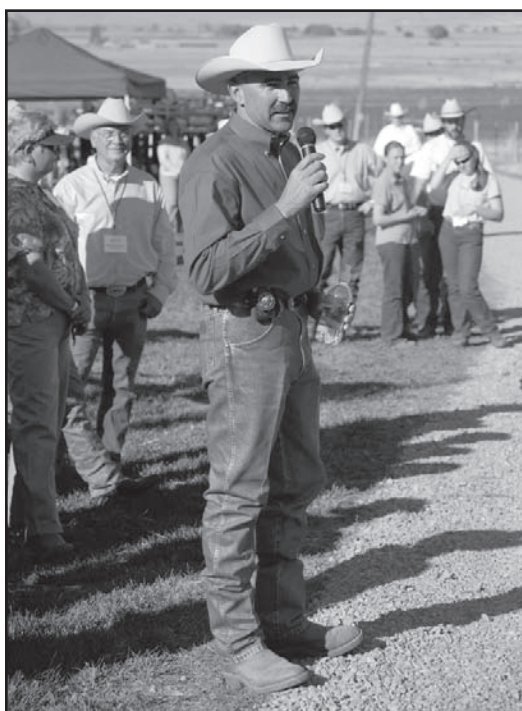




Visitors to Thomas Angus Ranch look over the fence at cattle on display. Thomas Angus Ranch manages more than 800 mother cows.



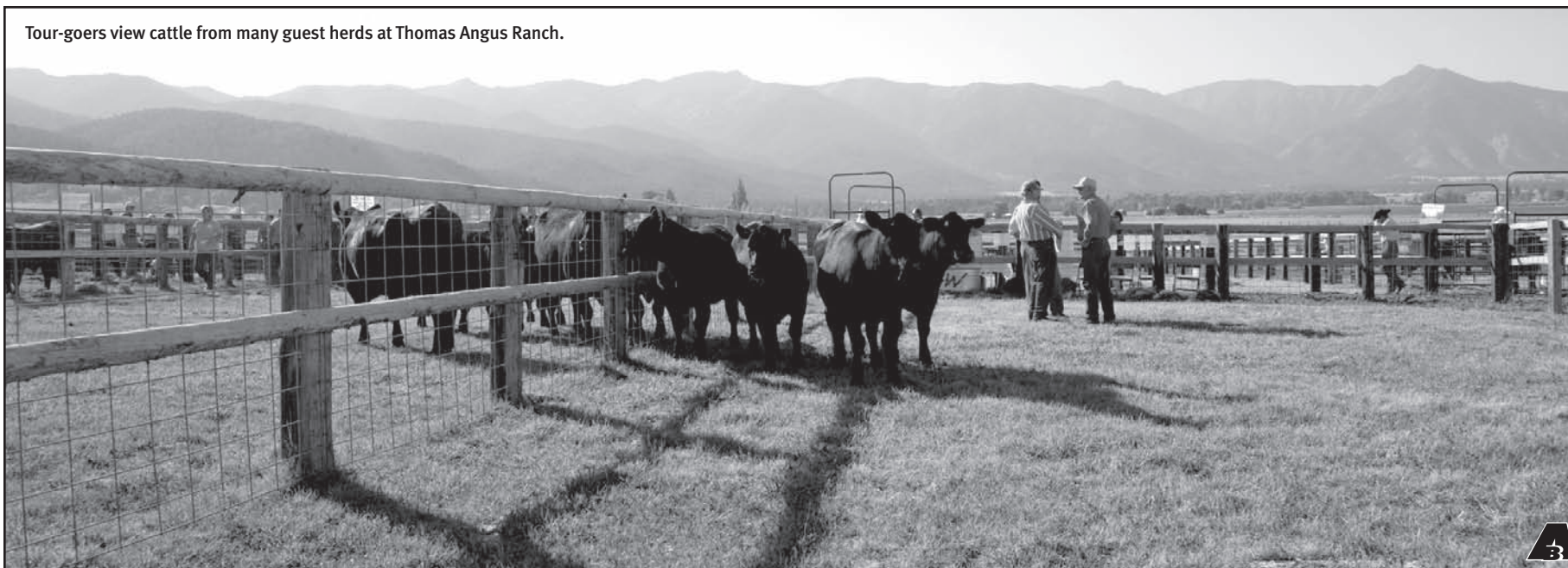
Visitors to Thomas Angus Ranch enjoy food, cattle and music.



Rob Thomas, Thomas Angus Ranch, Baker City, Ore., welcomes guests to his family's ranch, which was the last stop on the National Angus Tour.



Tour participants saw many different groups of cattle on display at Thomas Angus Ranch, which utilizes an embryo transfer program, implanting more than 700 embryos annually into commercial cows in seven cooperator herds.



Tour-goers view cattle from many guest herds at Thomas Angus Ranch.