

# Incorporating AngusSource

by **KINDRA GORDON**

Since being introduced in 2003, the AngusSource® program has found favor with commercial Angus producers with herds of all sizes.

Ed Thompson who ranches near Sturgis, S.D., has been enrolling his calves in AngusSource for the past four years.

In 2007, he tagged his calves with the trademark AngusSource tag. Thompson backgrounds his spring-born steers and sells them through Superior Video Auction typically in January.

He has been pleased with the additional promotion his calves have gotten through

the AngusSource program and believes in some years it has helped earn a few additional dollars per hundredweight — especially on AngusSource heifers.

Overall, Thompson says, he believes the AngusSource program has helped move the commercial Angus industry

forward. “Angus seedstock producers and the Certified Angus Beef program helped create a market, and source verification is another step. AngusSource has really helped us commercial producers in creating a market and adding value to Angus-verified cattle.”

The AngusSource program became a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) process-verified program (PVP) in 2005.

Don and Carol Basaraba of Fairfield, N.D., are in the second year of enrolling their calves in the AngusSource program. They sell about 70 feeder steers each October at Stockman’s Livestock in Dickinson, N.D. Carol reports that they like the fact that their calves are promoted to feedlots all across the country through AngusSource and because of that, she says, “We feel we got more of a premium when we sold our calves last year.”

Of the recordkeeping aspect, Carol says the requirements for AngusSource haven’t been difficult to incorporate. “We use registered Angus bulls and were already keeping records on our cattle birth dates and which bulls sired the calves, so it’s been easy for us to enroll in AngusSource.”

One change they will make next year is when they tag the calves. In their first year with AngusSource, Carol says, they tagged steers when they gave preweaning shots. This year, they tagged calves shortly after they were born, but she says that was challenging because they had to estimate how many tags to order in advance and then had to destroy the tags they didn’t use. Next year they plan to switch back to tagging steer calves again when preweaning vaccinations are given.

Because of the value they’ve seen through the program, the Basarabas are also considering enrolling some heifers in the AngusSource program in the future to sell as replacements.

To enroll in AngusSource, documentation must show the following:

- source of origin of the calves,
- group age, and
- a minimum of 50% Angus genetics (sired by a registered Angus bull).

AngusSource producers must submit the completed AngusSource Producer Participant Enrollment Form/Agreement and complete the training and cattle enrollment process. Once calves are enrolled they are identified with an official program tag and an AngusSource verification certificate is generated listing the source, age and genetic information for the lot.

Producers may customize the AngusSource verification certificate for feeder cattle and/or replacement females to include additional management, vaccination and sale information. This Document is then added to the online AngusSource Cattle Listing site and e-mailed to nearly 600 individuals interested in purchasing AngusSource cattle.

As of Oct. 1, 2007, cost for the AngusSource program is a \$50 enrollment fee with additional cost for tags at \$1 per visual, or \$3.25 per matched pair set including a visual tag and an electronic identification button.