

Great hospitality, great food, great cattle and great times are what were experienced during the 2006 Red Angus summer tour held August 19 - 20. This year's tour was hosted by an enthusiastic group of Red Angus breeders from the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. Red Angus breeders traveled from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to take in this diverse region of Saskatchewan.

On Saturday the tour started at Chopper K with Chad and Kim Levesque & family being our hosts. Their ranch is located south west of Carnduff bordering the scenic Souris River Valley. We were treated to seeing a fantastic group of bull calves, heifer calves, and bred heifers. Prominent sire groups included Red Chopper K Maximus 106L and Red LCHMN Top Brass 1049H. Chad also had his strong group of Pure Country sale females on display. The herd bulls that were on display were the center of many

lunch conversations. Following an excellent hamburger lunch a few local cowboys brought up the large group of cows for our appraisal. All of the members in attendance were very impressed with the quality of the Chopper K herd.

We then formed a convoy north towards the property of the Kyle family and their Kenray Ranch operation south of Redvers. Kenray Ranch is a family owned and operated operation that includes, Ray and Donelda Kyle, Lyndon & Karmen Kyle & son Layne and, Sheldon Kyle. We all gathered at the yard site before loading up to tour the pastures. The first group we viewed were the bred heifers with everyone picking out their own favorites. We then toured across the property to view the group of cows with bull calves. There were numerous sons of Red Lakeford Kapton 7M and Red JCC Warrior 5K plus a select group of AI sired calves to evaluate. We then viewed all of the first calf heifers in a nearby pasture. The production ability of the first calf Red Angus female was solidified upon viewing this outstanding group of females. From there we headed back to view the large group of cows with heifer calves. Everyone was impressed once again with the quality of the cattle and more surprisingly the number of trees that were in Saskatchewan. We were treated to a fantastic BBQ Roast Dinner in Ray and Donelda's backyard followed by a social evening and bonfire.



Sunday morning the tour group met at Moose Creek Red Angus south of Kisbey. Moose Creek is a long time breeder of quality Red Angus cattle and is currently operated by Glenn & Donna Ippolito, son Darren Ippolito and when time permits daughter Candace lends a helping hand. The morning kicked off with viewing of the cattle that local area Red Angus breeders Kevin & Kim Dorrance had on display. Kevin & Kim's operation is the T-K operation north of Moose Mountain Provincial Park. The groups that Kevin had on display were an excellent representation of his breeding program. There were many evaluating eyes spotting their next possible additions to their



herds. Following the viewing of the pen cattle we were fed a fantastic pancake breakfast.

Once all of the tour participants finally arrived we toured out to the pasture to view the Moose Creek cattle. This opportunity gave many potential buyers to get an early preview of the Moose Creek Complete Cowherd Dispersal sale cattle that will be offered on October 4, 2006. There were many compliments upon the strength of the cows upon seeing their progeny at foot. The years of genetic selection were evident when evaluating the cattle. Quality runs deep at Moose Creek Red Angus. This is a true testament to the no nonsense attitude that the Ippolito's adhere to. We

were treated to viewing their commercial cattle as well. Many of these females had previously been moved out of the purebred herd for various reasons.

Later that evening we were treated to a fantastic meal at the Kisbey community center. We all enjoyed looking through the Red Angus memory book that had been put together by Donna. Following dinner, guest speaker Bob Ivey gave a commentary upon his views of issues that face the current Canadian Beef industry. Bob and his family operate a substantial sized cow/calf operation as well as a backgrounder feedlot. They have made the move to livestock production recently and are extremely pleased with the transition. The conversation that followed was extremely interesting and interactive.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the group in the Southeast corner of Saskatchewan for all of your hard work and dedication to the promotion of Red Angus cattle. It is a true honour to be involved with such an enthusiastic and progressive group of breeders. These summer tours act as a great venue to renew old friendships and establish new ones. On a final note I want to thank all of the breeders who traveled such a great distance to participate. Dave and Tracee you may have got home before I did but I sure did enjoy the KFC dinner in Hanna!! If you were unable to participate I certainly know the gates are always open to visitors so feel free to stop by anytime.

