

Missouri Couple Commits Additional \$10,000 to Support the Angus Foundation and Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus

Dr. Curtis and Ann Long of Briarwood Angus Farms, Butler, Mo., announced the financial commitment at the 2011 Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event.

Dr. Curtis Long of Briarwood Angus Farms in Butler, Mo., announced that he and his wife, Ann, will donate an additional \$10,000 to support the Angus Foundation's \$11 million fundraising campaign, *Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus*, which concludes Dec. 31, 2011. He made the announcement on Nov. 12 at the 2011 Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event, which is held annually in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.

Since 1963, the Longs have been committed to not only the quality of the Angus breed but also the development of youth programs. In 2008, they donated \$100,000 to the Angus Foundation in support of the *Vision of Value* campaign to establish the Briarwood Angus Farms/Curtis and Ann Long Endowment Fund. The endowment supports the award winners of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Steer Carcass Contest each year.

"Permanent endowment funds established in the Angus Foundation, such as the Briarwood Angus Farms/Curtis and Ann Long Endowment Fund, afford donors an array of wonderful features, including the ability at any time to further increase the level of the endowment through additional outright cash gifts," says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. "By increasing their endow-

ment with this gift, the opportunity for more investment income annually for these awards could be further realized over the long term."

Not only do the Longs support awards for winners of the NJAS Steer Carcass Contest, they also started an awards program for the Missouri State Fair Steer Carcass Show. Long says he has been happy with the level of participation in and the success of the carcass contest at the Missouri State Fair, and this made him want to get more involved in the NJAS steer carcass program.

"I began visiting with Milford Jenkins in late 2007 about setting up similar awards at the National Junior Angus Show and endowing the carcass steer awards program," Long says. "Because the Angus Foundation is run by board members of the American Angus Association®, it helps to make it a very strong organization. The Foundation goals, directed to our youth, are designed to support education and research, which are very noble and worthy goals."

In addition to financially supporting these awards for junior Angus exhibitors, the Longs have supported the Angus Foundation and campaign in other ways highlighted by their purchase of the 2011 Angus Foundation Heifer Package for \$50,000 this past January in Denver, Colo., at the National Western Stock Show. 🐾

AGI, Pfizer Animal Genetics Announce New Developments

Additional genomic-enhanced EPDs and increased convenience revealed.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Nov. 18, 2011 — Angus Genetics, Inc.® (AGI), a subsidiary of the American Angus Association®, and Pfizer Animal Genetics announce two new advancements that allow Angus breeders to more efficiently improve herd genetics.

These include additional genomic-enhanced EPDs (GE-EPDs) and genomic percent ranks for docility (DOC), yearling height (YH), scrotal circumference (SC), mature height (MH) and mature weight (MW) that incorporate the genomic results provided by the High Density 50K (HD 50K) platform from Pfizer Animal Genetics. In addition, AGI is now accepting DNA samples for genetic defect testing conducted by Pfizer Animal Genetics.

Through AGI, the American Angus Association continues to expand its offering of genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs) using its extensive performance database and genomic results from DNA samples submitted by cattlemen.

"This is an exciting development in our mission to provide Angus cattle producers with the most advanced, extensive genetic selection tools available in the beef industry," said Bill Bowman, AGI president and Association chief operating officer. "With these additional genomic-enhanced EPDs, we're now able to offer genomic-enhanced measures on all production traits and further expand our maternal selection capabilities."

Scott Bormann, business director, Pfizer Animal Genetics, says these additional traits support the versatility and flexibility that come with using a 54,000-marker platform.

"Angus breeders utilizing HD 50K technology continue to benefit from the expandability of a platform that includes 54,000 markers," Bormann says. "This platform allows for the addition of new traits while still providing more coverage across the full range of existing

traits as well as parentage verification — all from a single sample and for a single price."

In addition to garnering information about four new traits, samples sent to AGI for genomic-enhanced EPDs powered by HD 50K can now be used for genetic defect testing. Angus breeders can also conduct genetic defect testing for neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH), arthrogryposis multiplex (AM) or contractural arachnodactyly (CA) through Pfizer Animal Genetics as a stand-alone test.

Breeders who have previously received GE-EPDs powered by HD 50K will receive the new trait predictions on tested animals at no additional charge. These GE-EPDs will be released Nov. 18. And, samples that are on file with AGI can be retrieved and used for defect testing as well.

"This agreement expands our relationship and services with Pfizer Animal Genetics to further provide seamless customer service to our members," says Bowman. "This new development will add convenience to Angus breeders' genetic testing programs for NH, AM and CA."

Bormann says this is another example of the commitment from AGI to provide Angus breeders and buyers of Angus genetics the most advanced and convenient options in genetic evaluation.

"We at Pfizer Animal Genetics are proud to partner with AGI in continuing to provide industry-leading solutions and advancements in the area of genetic evaluation for the Angus breed and the U.S. beef industry," Bormann says.

Visit www.angus.org or www.pfizeranimalgenetics.com for more information about the additional traits and genetic defect testing as it becomes available. Or, contact your Association regional manager, Pfizer Animal Genetics representative; call 816-383-5100 or 877-BEEF-DNA. 🐾