

History writing of Hoover Angus encompassing 4 generations is not an easy task! Hoover Angus is one of the oldest herds in Iowa. Eighty-three years of cattle “paying the bills” as there are no town jobs.

In 1985, W.J. McKeag started a series of articles for the Iowa Angus News concerning outstanding personalities connected with the Angus breed in Iowa. It was a general opinion to inaugurate the series with, “the old wizard himself,” Walt Hoover, also known as the “Dean of Iowa Angus”. Walt was a legend in Iowa Angus circles. He was their outspoken elder statesman for years. With razor sharp wit and amazing power of recall, he could give vivid details of the great old-time breeders. Walt could entertain the listener with nearly endless anecdotes and stories of early day breed history.

Hoover Angus Farm is located near Ellston and Tingley, Iowa. Females bear “Ellston” in their pedigree name to signify the herd location and homestead location of Hoover ancestors. Walt and Sadye moved to Grand Avenue in Des Moines in 1948 from the farm originally homesteaded by the Hoover family in 1856. John and Barb Kiburz, their son-in-law and daughter joined herds with Walt & Sadye in 1953. At that time, the herd numbered 90 registered Angus cows. John and Barb have two daughters, Joy and Judy. Joy and Judy spent many years in 4-H and FFA showing home raised Angus steers across the Midwest culminating many years at the famous Chicago International. Joy’s County Fair record of three consecutive Grand Champion Steers still holds today. Joy and her husband, David McFarland and daughter Landi live in the Hoover Century Farm home where Walt and Barb were born. They comprise Hoover Angus Farm today.

F.W. Hoover founded his registered Angus herd in 1928 with females from veteran breeder Frank Paymal, Lenox, IA. These females were strong in Kemp breeding. Walt would be proud to know that 20 years after his death, the top selling bred heifer and open heifer in the 2011 Hoover Angus annual production sale at \$33,500 and \$20,000 sold to Angus breeders Kevin & Deb Sweeney, also from Lenox, IA. The first herd bull was a grandson of Earl Marshall, purchased from Earl Canby. The vast majority of today’s Hoover herd descends from these early lines.

The second herd bull for Walt was another Earl Marshall bred bull purchased from Billy Coleman’s noted High Grove herd at Corning, IA. This bull was named Quaker Sir. Walt sold a son of this bull at the 1936 Iowa State Sale for \$150! It was a good price in those days!

The great Revolution’s Bell Boy deserves a special paragraph in the Hoover history. Walt often told the story of paying \$300 for this bull as a 3 month-old calf. Quite a price in the tough days of 1937, but he carried a sterling pedigree. He was used in the herd until his death at past 14 years. Space doesn’t permit a detailed account of the far-flung influence of this grand old sire. His influence was vast indeed. Sons and daughters of Revolution’s Bell Boy were widely distributed to all corners of the country. A large percentage of the registered Angus in Southern Iowa would somewhere in their tabulations trace to Revolution’s Bell Boy.

An important succession of stock bulls would now follow at Hoover Angus Farm. Important sires such as Bandolier 60<sup>th</sup> of Wilton, Bandolier 123 of West Lane, Woodlawn Bardoliermere, and Baron of Lakewood 41<sup>st</sup> left their mark in the Hoover herd. One of the most important bulls during the '60s was the noted Kermac Marshall 425. He was also used until past 14 years of age. Sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons of Kermac Marshall 425 saw extensive service. H&K Marshall 35, a son of the grand old bull, was particularly influential at Hoovers. Mated with a granddaughter of Revolution's Bell Boy, he sired H&K Marshall 162. The latter bull was sold to Bell & Sons of Osceola, IA. Many will recall that H&K Marshall 162 sired the high performing Marshalls Keyban, one of the most important performance bulls of modern times. The legacy of Kermac Marshall remains strong in the Hawkeye state.

Certain other sires have left their mark. Crackerjack Baros 61, the \$33,000 son of "Prime Rate", was purchased from Erdmann Ranch. Summitcrest Revolution L011 was purchased from Fred Johnson's noted Summitcrest herd. This son of Byergos Black Revolution 36 was out of a top daughter of Columbus Adventure 310. The latter female was a former show heifer bred by the renowned Professor Herman Purdy. The L011 bull and his home raised son did an excellent job at Hoover Angus. In keeping with the Hoover tradition, a number of home-bred bulls are always utilized in the breeding program. In 1984, Walt selected a top son of the many times champion, "Brutus". This calf was named Crackerjack Brutus 674. He carried impressive performance credentials. SAF Fix 8178, "Fix", became a popular sire at Hoover Angus. He was a feature of the 1989 Sydenstricker Sale. In 1991, he sired the #1 and #2 weaning weight bulls at 876 and 847 lbs.

Walt Hoover was never reluctant to serve the larger interests of the breed. He served as the third President of the Iowa Southern Angus Association. When he was President of the Iowa Angus Association, he attended no less than 65 Angus events during one year. Sadye was at his side at all times. She could always spot the good cattle and was instrumental in founding the Iowa Angus Auxiliary. She was a charter member and worked at the state and national level. At the Iowa State Fair, Walt and Sadye could be seen working in and hauling chairs, ice, etc. for the Angus booth for many years.

Walt and Sadye lived next door to Maury White, the renowned sports writer for the Des Moines Register, for over 40 years. In fact, Maury often referred to "My Neighbor Walt" in his regular sports column.

The Angus business was good to Walt and Sadye. Sadye passed away in 1989, and Walt in 1991. The Hoover operation was practical and successful. Walt and Sadye have been saluted for their strong impact upon the breed and for the high standard of integrity which they brought the Angus industry. They had an unwavering confidence in the Angus breed and a constant enthusiasm for the industry.

It is with the same enthusiasm and drive that John Kiburz took over the entire herd upon Walt's death. Much of Walt's success can be attributed to John's operating skills. John has purchased additional land to total 2000 acres and the cow herd has increased to 400.

Hoover Angus Farm was one of the first “Pillars of the Breed”. Walt and Sadye were that beginning Pillar. Every successful football team has a great quarterback. John Kiburz is the one who takes the ball and runs. For 58 years, John has carried the ball and has carried the team through drought to flood as well as the good times. Angus herds come and go, but Hoover Angus has a reputation as a herd you can count on for multi-trait superiority Angus cattle.

As the second and third generations took commands of the Hoover Angus cow herd, decisions were made for new blood to be introduced to the herd. John, Barb, David, and Joy put out the word they were searching for a new sire. One cold February morning, Craig Conover called and said he had found a real correct, thick muscled, smooth shouldered “Dark Star” son in North Dakota. To make a long story short, the bull came to Tingley at \$4100 and a partnership was agreed to with CJ Angus, Craig and Jean Conover. We were pleased when the bull arrived, and it wasn’t long till Walt was down to the farm. He apparently liked what he saw because he called Craig Conover and made the statement, “I haven’t been more pleased with a bull since I brought Revolution’s Bell Boy home from Kemps!” Quite an act to match, but he has that kind of potential. We were very pleased with our “super star”.

John and David were on the board of the Iowa Angus Association. John and David were both past presidents of the Iowa Southern Angus Association. David and Joy were Secretary/Treasurer of the Iowa Southern Angus Association for a number of years. Joy was the 1993 Iowa Angus Auxiliary President. The McFarlands hosted the 1993 Auxiliary Barn Party at Hoover Angus. Angus breeders and friends were served Certified Angus Beef® steaks and a full buffet meal from real feed bunks. Guests enjoyed the baking products of Barb, Joy, and Landi, as well as homemade ice cream from David. The family made a big showing at the Iowa State Fair. David entered the homemade ice cream competition, and was a many-time winner. Joy brought home 71 blue ribbons from the 1993 Iowa State Fair! At 85 years, Barb’s hobby is still baking cookies for Iowa State Fair baking competitions, where she has won countless ribbons and honors.

In 1990, it was decided to have an annual production sale. February 1991 was the first annual sale. The first Tuesday in February at the Creston Livestock Auction is the date and location of the annual sale. The sale is truly a family affair as the family manages their own sale and writes their own sale catalog. The Hoover Angus sale is currently the largest annual production sale held in Iowa regardless of breed.

It was the purchase of SA Neutron 377 that moved the herd the farthest (the fastest). John attended the Slagle Angus auction and Joy’s instructions were, “Buy the bull!” Genex partnered for semen sales, and “377” became a household word across America and abroad. TC Gridiron 258 followed as the next Genex bull. Bull sales blossomed in our annual sale.

In 1997, Hoover Angus Farm was host to Angus breeders from 20 states, plus Canada, Scotland, Mexico and Argentina on the National Angus Conference and Tour. Hoover

Angus prepared and served Certified Angus Beef® steaks to approximately 400 guests. The full buffet dinner was served from cattle feed bunks. All of the food was prepared by Joy, Landi, and Barb. 30 cakes, chocolate chip cookies, and 8 flavors of David's homemade ice cream filled the dessert bunk and ice cream freezer. Guests arrived in four tour buses and many additional cars. Upon arrival, John gave a short overview of the family farm and the cattle were viewed prior to the meal. Bull calves on display adjusted weaning weights averaged 720 lbs. and heifer calves averaged 661 lbs. Tour coordinator Dave Sweeney wrote, "The elaborate meal at your place was many times referred to as the 'tour highlight'. I congratulate you on your abilities as a host. The cattle you displayed were equally revered among tour-goers. Your seventy years of Angus breeding has been super productive."

Fourth generation Landi McFarland has been involved with the cattle her entire life. Her early days showing breeding heifers and steers in carcass competitions made striving for genetic excellence one of her favorite things. Landi started writing footnotes for the farm's annual production sale in high school, and by her college years, developed into orchestrating the entire catalog production, a 60+ page book. Landi served as Miss Iowa Angus in college, and one of her highest honors was earning the Crystal Award at the 2004 National Jr. Angus Show for being the top female participant in the educational contests. Landi was the 2005 Certified Angus Beef Colvin Scholarship recipient, and spoke at the Annual CAB Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. It is with pride she wears the first belt buckle given in memory of the late Dick Spader for her 1<sup>st</sup> place extemporaneous speaking at the National Jr. Angus Show.

Since her first year out of college, Landi has been elected yearly by fellow Iowa Angus breeders to represent the state at the American Angus Association Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY, a responsibility she takes very seriously. Landi is a passionate spokesperson for Angus and agriculture, and has traveled to Washington, D.C. twice to speak to lawmakers – once as part of NCBA's prestigious Young Cattlemen's Conference, and once with the Iowa Farm Bureau Ag Leaders class. In 2010, Landi was featured on the front page of two agriculture publications as well as being a guest on the Consumer Ag Connection radio show and being Iowa State University College of Agriculture's "Young Alum of the Month" in November.

It was Landi's urging to purchase CC&7 from Sydenstricker Genetics. David & Joy viewed the purchase as an investment in Landi's future. CC&7 has become one of the top-selling semen bulls for both ABS and ORigen. A prominent son, Hoover Dam, is our top-selling bull to date at \$47,500 selling to a syndicate of breeders from multiple states and Canada. Hoover Dam is a popular sire for ABS and ORigen. Due in part to CC&7 and Hoover Dam, new records were set in Hoover's 2011 annual production sale when 102 bulls averaged \$5003 despite the raging blizzard.

At Hoover Angus Farm. . . we are proud of our history, treasure the present, and set our sights on the future!