

2009 Leachman Cattle of Colorado Sale Report

Leachman Cattle of Colorado hosted their 6th annual sale in Wellington, CO on Tuesday, March 24th. The pre-sale gathering featured Dr. Tom Field speaking about how to survive in tough times along with a prime rib dinner at the Sundance Steak House. Despite blizzard conditions and road closures across most of Wyoming and in the Colorado Rockies, buyers from 31 states, three Canadian provinces, Australia, and South Africa participated at the sale. Leachman's welcomed buyers that attended in person, bid over Superior Livestock Internet, and those that placed Sight UnSeen orders. Once again, 27 volume commercial buyers purchased over 270 bulls in the sale.

The industry's current hot buttons are cow size and feed efficiency – both cornerstones of the Leachman program. Every animal in the catalog featured Leachman's Feed to Gain EPD and a daughter Mature Weight EPD. Buyers also paid close attention to the Leachman \$Profit EPD that predicts the profitability of a bulls progeny (assuming 100 offspring over the course of the bull's breeding life). Low birth weight, three and four star calving ease bulls were extremely popular and sold well across all breed categories. Buyers also made use of the Leachman disposition score to pick bulls that best fit their operation.

The high selling animal was Lot 799, LCoC Firefly UA001, a January 13th daughter of High Noon that fetched \$10,000 for ½ interest to Majestic Meadows, West Meadows, MD. The high selling Red Angus bull was Lot 493, a 78 lb BW high growth and carcass son of Mission Statement that sold for \$4000 to Waukaru Farms, Inc., Renssalaer, IN.

The high selling Angus heifer was Lot 711, a Mytty In Focus out of the Isabel cow family for \$3,900 to Miles & Tiffany Rives, Buffalo, WY. The high selling Angus bull was Lot 376, a Gardens Prime Star x O C C Great Plains purebred Angus bull with a tremendous tabulation of -0.4 BW, 45 WW, 95 YW, +.75 Marb, and +.24 REA for \$6,750 to Randy Doke, Wray, CO. A syndicate of breeders including Summitcrest Farms and Southern Cattle Company purchased the semen rights in six, high feed efficiency, Angus sires including Lots 369, 370, 387, 394, 395, and 406 for \$10,000 per 50% semen interest. The six Angus bulls have an average Feed to Gain EPD of -0.49 which indicates that their progeny will save \$35 per head on calf fed steers.

Two Charolais bulls, Lots 538 & 564 topped the offering at \$6,000 each to Southern Cattle Company, Marianna, FL. Lot 538, an Easy Pro x Grid Maker with exceptional feed conversion, a 3.69% IMF and a 1387 AYW. Lot 564, a LT Rio Bravo x Cowboy Science with a 78 lb BW, a 739 AWW, and negative feed to gain.

The high selling black Stabilizer bull was Lot 5, a 65 lb BW Lucky Charm son with a 14.7" REA to Chris Grubl, Sturgis, SD for \$5,500. The high selling red Stabilizer bull was Lot 317, a 71 BW bull with a \$9,860 \$Profit index, for \$5,500 to Fort Hays State University.

The Leachman crew did an amazing job of sorting and delivering the cattle to the ring in a timely and organized fashion that resulted in the sale finishing at 6:30 – just in time for supper! The winter storm in the region just missed Wellington, but gale force winds were in effect throughout the sale. Leachman's are now mailing out their private treaty catalog that features an additional 500 bulls priced between \$1750 and \$4000. Dallas and Mary Horton and Lee and Lisa Leachman were thankful for another successful sale.

Bull Averages

Female Averages

251	Black Stabilizers	\$2,948
37	Red Stabilizers	\$2,966
81	Angus	\$3,207
24	Red Angus	\$2,240
41	Charolais	\$2,585
<u>10</u>	<u>Simmental</u>	<u>\$2,275</u>
444	Bulls Total	\$2,910

23	Red Angus	\$2,207
91	Angus	\$1,136
30	Charolais	\$1,178
<u>18</u>	<u>Simmental</u>	<u>\$1,344</u>
162	Heifers Total	\$1,319