

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2009



**Calgary, Alberta**—Nasty winds created a bitter wind chill and blew snow around Stampede Park, but inside the Agriculture Pavilion on Stampede Park, visitors to the 109<sup>th</sup> Calgary Bull Sale were toasty warm and fired up. The building was abuzz as commercial cattlemen and purebred producers gathered to inspect, buy and sell bulls.

Wednesday's phenomenal weather brought many people to the bull shows. Thursday's bad weather kept some people away, but consignors and buyers remained upbeat. A total of 265 Charolais, Hereford and Angus bulls sold for an average price of \$3,492.83 in Thursday's auction. For many in attendance, the Calgary Bull Sale is an annual event that is not to be missed.

The 2009 Calgary Bull Sale was dedicated to Don Stewart, retired Senior Agriculture Manager of the Calgary Stampede and manager for the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association. Don passed away October 4, 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Thursday morning's opening ceremonies began with an address from Brad Dallas, President of the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association. Agriculture Minister George Groeneveld brought greetings from the Government of Alberta. He also offered comments on the province's agriculture industry.

The opening ceremonies included a tribute to Don Stewart. The moving tribute included a video montage and appearances from 22 past presidents of the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association who had served with Stewart. The tribute was followed by the first sale. Stewart was dedicated to the success and longevity of the Calgary Bull Sale, and he would be proud of this year's results.

High River cattle breeder Grant Hirsche of Adams–Hirsche describes the Calgary Bull Sale as "the most esteemed consignment bull sale in North America." Hirsche breeds purebred Hereford and Angus cattle and says he always tries to save some of his best bulls for this sale. "I feel very strongly that this is a good sale and it needs to continue." This year he brought 30 bulls, and one of them, GH Adams Twister 416T, became the highest-selling bull of the 2009 Calgary Bull Sale.

Hirsche is not alone in his respect for the Calgary Bull Sale. Dan Dubeau, Mick Nieman and Scott Pahl represent Pipeline Grazing from Medicine Hat. They attend the Calgary Bull Sale to buy bulls for the grazing association. Nieman says "One of the best places to buy bulls is the Calgary Bull Sale." Nieman, Dubeau and Pahl buy most of their bulls at the sale. Nieman has been attending the sale for about 30 years, and he says "We've bought well over 100 bulls since we started coming here, and we will continue to buy bulls here."

This year they bought seven horned Hereford bulls for Pipeline Grazing from multiple consignors. All three were very satisfied with their purchases. Nieman said "I don't think we've ever bought better quality cattle."

According to Dubeau, it's not just the quality of the livestock that draws people to the Calgary Bull Sale; it's also the consignors and the buyers. "The people are very important."

Pahl added "The Calgary Bull Sale is a lot of fun and a good time. There are a lot of good people and a lot of good cattle." Nieman adds, "It's almost like a holiday for us to come here."

While there is a strong social element to the sale, there is also a lot of serious cattle business that gets done. John Flint of Dalrene Farms near New Norway, Alberta, purchased the top-selling Angus bull from Belvin Angus for \$20,000. "I saw what I think is one of the best bulls I've seen in a long time, so I bought him off some very reputable breeders that I've bought from before," says Flint.

The Flint family has been raising purebred Angus cattle since 1932. Flint's family has attended most Calgary Bull Sales since 1936 when his grandfather first attended. "This is a passion—it always has been," he says with a smile as he turns to greet a producer who has come to look at his bulls.

John Rudiger of Rudiger Charolais Ranch on the outskirts of Calgary has been attending the Calgary Bull Sale since 1970 and has been breeding Charolais cattle for 51 years. He has noticed an increase in the number of people stopping to look at the cattle this year. He even had a couple potential customers from Quebec visit his farm over the weekend so they could get an advance look at the bulls.

Thursday's nasty weather did keep some people away. But the bulls still sold. Colton Hamilton is a fourth-generation Angus breeder with Belvin Angus who has been coming to the Calgary Bull Sale "every year for my whole life." He admits that this year is different. "We're in a different economic situation than past years which creates pressure on the agriculture industry. Still, good quality genetics sold well. People are still willing to pay for good quality, top-end bulls."

Exhibitors at the trade show were also busy. In addition to answering questions and visiting with producers, Clay Ross from Allflex Canada gave a practical demonstration of electronic tag reading by scanning every bull that entered the Agriculture Pavilion. Ross' electronic tag reader captured the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency tag number and automatically entered into a spreadsheet. Ross describes the demonstration as "a supreme benefit. Every producer got to see how we can capture the time, date, place, and tag number of every animal."

A large thanks also goes out to the sale's top volume buyers: Miller Ranches Ltd. of Hanceville, BC; Karl Ranch Corp. of Calgary, AB; Guenthner Bros. of Consort, AB; Carolside Ranching Inc. of Sunnynook, AB; P.F.R.A. of Regina, SK; Pipeline Grazing Co-op of Medicine Hat, AB; and Flying E Rancho Ltd. of Stavely, AB.

## **Alberta Cattle Breeders Association**

### **Calgary Bull Sale**

#### **Sale Summary 2009**

##### **Totals**

- 265 bulls sold for an average price of \$3,493, slightly lower than last year's average. The total gross sales were \$925,600.
- 99 Angus bulls sold for a total of \$304,600 averaging \$3,077
- 29 Charolais bulls sold for a total of \$109,500 and averaged \$3,776
- 135 Hereford bulls totaled \$507,500 in sales with an average of \$3,759

## 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Calgary Bull Sale Summary

### Hereford

Grand Champion: JNHR Silver Standard 501T sold for \$12,000 to Bannerlane Herefords of Livelong, SK and was consigned by JoNomn Hereford Ranch of Clyde, AB

Reserve Grand Champion: Little Fort Herefords & KLJ & GKJ of Red Deer, AB JNHR purchased Silver Standard 657T for \$8,000. It was consigned by JoNomn Hereford Ranch of Clyde, AB.

### Charolais

Grand Champion: PH Wyoming Wind 79T sold for \$6,000 to Gordon Church of Balzac, AB and was consigned by P & H Ranching Co. Ltd. of Innisfail, AB.

Reserve Grand Champion: White Lake Colony of Nobleford, AB and Cameron Farms of Turin, AB purchased PH Liberty 26T for \$10,000. It was consigned by P & H Ranching Co. Ltd. of Innisfail, AB.

### Angus

Grand Champion: Rainbow Hills Prime Cut 205T sold for \$4,700 to Atlee Angus of Jenner, AB and was consigned by Rainbow Hills Ranch of Delburne, AB.

Reserve Grand Champion: Gary Seutter of Millet, AB purchased DMM Stick Shift 33U for \$5,000. It was consigned by Miller Wilson Angus of Bashaw, AB.

### Ranch Horse Sale Summary

15 ranch horses sold at an average price of \$6,257 totaling \$93,850.

For further information visit; [www.calgarybullsale.com](http://www.calgarybullsale.com) or call Sharon Yeast at (403) 261-9316.