

Pierce Angus Farms

2015 Newsletter

I swear every year the clock speeds up, time goes by so fast. Here it is time to get ready for winter, the cold and the snow that goes with it.

As I am writing, the harvest is just about wrapped up -- records for most folks. We averaged right at 200 on continuous corn. The last couple of years we have been seeding cereal rye after taking off corn silage. In 2014 I baled rye, and it's tough to get dry, so the corn silage on that piece made 155 that was planted 6/12. This year we chopped the rye and planted the corn on 6/1. Near perfect growing conditions this summer as we got 5.5 inches of rain every month. The corn when chopped was appraised at 185 b/a. I had gone out and measured off a 1/1000 of an acre and in this area I counted 39 ears, one ear had 20 rows and was 42 kernels long, that figured 397 bu. per acre. So I must have found the best spot of corn I ever raised there. The ears got smaller down the hill, but the tonnage was probably as heavy as I have ever raised. 39,000 pop is a little high in most years. I was shooting for 34,000 pop, but the soil conditions made the planter put in much more seed. I have an old Kinze ground driven planter, so soil conditions make quite a difference.

Before I go on, I want to sincerely thank our customers for their purchases this past year. It's very humbling to keep having folks come back and buy their breeding stock from us. 60% of our bull sales this year were sold over the phone, sight unseen. Everyone seemed very satisfied with their new purchases. Everyone is so busy with their operations, jobs, children's activities, that we sure want to help them get the genetics they need to improve their herds. Time is so valuable, maybe that's the reason time seems to pass by before we realize it.

With all of the news of the Paris terror attack in November, you just wonder why there are people that have that kind of hatred in their mind. Connie and I got to go to the South of France 2 years ago, really enjoyed it. Great food, scenery, old Roman ruins. I have wanted to go back to Northern France to see Paris, and some of the WWII sites. Until the world settles down, that is something I guess will stay

on my bucket list. In fact with the cities in the U.S. having so many problems, drive-bys, etc. we stayed in Iowa this summer and enjoyed our wonderful state and its sights. Restful and beautiful this summer with the wonderful weather. We drove up the Mississippi River and saw some beautiful areas in NE Iowa. Saw the areas where Grant Wood got some of his inspiration, drove a high ridge road, and looked down for miles off rolling hills, dairy farm area, really beautiful.

Speaking of the condition of the U.S. cities and the world situation, we have a major election coming up in one year. Iowa is the first in the nation with its caucus and that comes up in early Feb. I urge you to listen to the candidates and choose wisely. We can't afford to make another mistake in the leadership of the country or the lack of leadership as I see it. The U.S. must lead the world, a weak U.S. leads to major problems around the world. We saw that under Carter, and saw how things changed by bringing in a strong leader in Reagan. We better hope that happens again. When you wonder whose side your president is on, you've got a mess.

This year brought along a new addition to the Pierce Angus Farm and our partners, the Brayton Cattle Company. In September of 2014, we went on the South Dakota State Angus Tour. I was looking for a prospective new herd sire. I saw a bull that caught my eye at the last stop on the tour at Mohnen Angus Ranch. He had an 80 lb. birth weight and weaning wt. of 900 lbs. He was in the prospective Denver carload pen of bulls they were going to pick from for that event. I decided I was going to keep an eye on this bull. Brayton's and I went to look at the bulls that were going to be in their sale about 3 weeks before that event, Mohnen's had the Grand Champion carload of bulls. The bull I had seen in Sept. was named **Mohnen Custer 504**, and was a member of that pen. He had a 1618 lbs. yearling wt. We bought the bull in the sale for \$27,000 for a 2/3 interest, with the Brayton's partnering up on him. His epds are outstanding – B +.7, W + 73, Y +120, Sc +1.55, Doc +22. Those numbers put him in the top 1% of the breed on weaning, top 2% on yearling, top 10 % on Scrotal, top 15% on Doc, top 1% on \$W, and top 2% on \$F. His sire, Mohnen South Dakota, sold as a

yearling bull for \$120,000, and he sired 6 of the 10 bulls in the carload. His 30 sons in the sale averaged \$17,000. He is one of the top sires in the breed today. We have excellent semen for sale on Custer for \$20 straw and \$35 for a cert. Whether you are a purebred or commercial operation, this bull is certainly worth using in your AI program. We bred him to 40 females this spring in natural service and getting ready to turn him in with 30 again this Fall.

TC Doc Holliday is the sire of some of the bulls we have available this winter. They are very popular with cattlemen. His numbers are very impressive. B +.2, W+62, Y +1-6, SC +.99, Doc +30, \$B +156. He ranks in the top 3% on Doc, and in the top 4% of \$B. His sons out of Musgrave Finalist daughters are outstanding. The first 4 we had this year averaged \$6,000 out of 1st calf heifers. Doc has 3 maternal brothers in bulls studs; and in the recent Whitestone sale, the top selling female at \$26,000 was out of his mother.

Musgrave Finalist is our great herd bull from the Musgrave herd in Illinois. He has sired over 200 calves for us; his daughters are going to be some of the best cows we have ever had in the herd. Great udders and teats. We have about 60 of his daughters now. I have a large group of his sons for sale this year. They are thick and long bodied. They are great working bulls. Get the female bred and move on, they hold up very well. **With so many of his daughters in the herd and lots of bulls sold and for sale, I am offering him for sale. 1/3 interest and full possession and salvage value would go along.** I have a good bank of semen for my own use. He was born in March of 2010, had has lots of use left in him. He is a very impressive bull, really thick and long bodied. I have only pulled 1 calf by him and that calf had a foot down. This is a great chance to own a breed improving herd sire.

One outstanding steer prospect, sired by Doc Holliday, his dam a 1st calf Finalist heifer out of a New Frontier 095 cow. Was one of top 3 bulls in our crop, had a small teste due to injury, so we cut him. He is a good one.

The rest of the story on the bulls and sale females is on the ad page of this newsletter.

We will have some outstanding bulls from the Brayton Cattle Company herd near Rowley Iowa. These outstanding young producers have a herd built on Pierce Angus genetics and we have been purchasing bulls together the last 5 years. We have been getting their top end bulls and they have been getting heifers in return. Give them a call if you are looking for outstanding females to add to your herd. Their Phone no. is 319-350-1184.

As of this writing, I am scheduled to go in for back surgery on Dec 8th. I have a pinched nerve in my back, going down my sciatic nerve. I've been on crutches since early Sept. I have been a little better here lately, but it needs to get fixed so I can enjoy working with my cattle. I will try to work with everyone that needs cattle. I may not be able to go in the lot with folks, but buyers can go through the pens and then we can talk it over in the house. Of course, sight unseen sales over the phone will be no problem for me. I would love to talk to people, as I have never been out of commission in my 50 years in this business, so I don't know how this is going to go. I guess I will really enjoy the ISU Cyclone BB, I may have to watch each one a lot of times.

Roger and Connie Pierce