



Musgrave Blastoff



Musgrave Jackpot

Pierce Angus Farms

2017 Newsletter

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Here it is early December and I am late in getting this letter put together. With the warm and dry weather the last few weeks I have so many jobs that need to be done -- about have the 300 + bales of stover up. My baler is in the shop broke down, so my dealer loaned me a used baler. After a sprocket coming off of a shaft, the next day a belt breaking, and then the next day smelling some smoke and found a bearing going out before I had a fire. They had me going again each time, so I think I am going to have all the problems found pretty soon for them and it will be ready to sell.

I guess I am really making the repair shops stay busy this fall. Had my loader-front assist tractor down during harvest for 2.5 months. Fortunately the dealer loaned me a new 155 hp loader tractor, so we got through that, but I sure hated to put scratches on the loader bucket. When I got mine back, I was glad to be back on my older tractor. I guess as you get older, you don't like to change much. By the way, when I started up the new one, I could barely hear that it was running. Lots different than the 1967 Oliver 1755 gas tractor Dad had when I started farming. It was so loud that I talked dad into trading it off because I thought we were going to lose our hearing with it.

Another great crop in the bin. We averaged 215 bushels per acre on all continuous corn, which is a new record for me. I would never have thought that with the warm nights, many times still 80 degrees at midnight this summer, that it could be that good. We got most every rain that came through this part of the state. I had customers say that they hardly had much rain from Memorial Day 'till into Aug. when most everyone got great rains. As I have reported in other newsletters, we are in the 4th year of a rotation of corn planted about 6/1 after cutting rye on 5/20 for silage and then no-tilling corn back in and chopping it, then hauling manure and drilling rye again. The appraised yields have been 155, 188, 204 and 219 this year for the overall 4 years. I know we have

been having outstanding summers each of those 4 years, but it is very surprising what can be done with today's genetics and chemicals.

This has been a trying year for lots of us in Agriculture. Grain prices are hardly break-even, but the cattle market has been better than a year ago. With the booming stock market, jobs looking for people to fill, the Chinese coming into our beef markets -- the beef industry is in pretty good shape. The wealth effect is going to make folks enjoy more steaks. The price of hamburger is much cheaper than a couple of years ago, so it makes good sense for the housewife to serve beef or enjoy a great steak at their favorite steak house.

With the election last year, we were warned about the economy tanking if Trump won the election. That opinion came from Clinton, and also from Paul Krugman of the New York Times, and he being a so-called Nobel Prize winner in economics. So the stock market dropped hard during the late hours of the election on Nov. 8th, and then turned sharply higher ever since. But all the turmoil from the left starting the next day after the election has been eye opening. You have to be careful that the news you are getting has anything to do with reality. It shows how corrupt our government had become, much of D.C. has been weaponized against our own people. We needed an administration that watches out for the tax paying, working folks of this country, that had been sorely overlooked for the past 2 administrations but mostly the last 8 years. We need to be a united country instead of the leftist trying to pull us apart to serve their own purposes. When you have 5th graders protesting the election in Des Moines you know there are crazy things going on in our schools.

With the loss of our young bull, Mohnen Custer, last year, I was in need of a new bull or 2 this spring. Doc Holiday got a bit of a stifle problem after breeding cows for fall calves last winter, so we went to the Musgrave Sale in Ill. in March -- the same herd where our great herd bull, Musgrave Finalist, came from. In searching through the sale catalog and the videos on-line, I had 2 bulls picked out that I thought could make a great team for our program. They were down in the sale order some because they were featuring some sons of one of their new herd sires. I had some other bulls I liked up in the sale order earlier, but not what I was totally looking for, so I waited, hoping that I could get those 2 bulls, with luck I got them both. As luck would have it, some others were looking at them also. Adam and Tracy Brayton were with me and as the auctioneer was about to knock the 2nd one off, she turned and said that Wagonhammer Ranch in Neb. was bidding on that bull also, and they sure have lots deeper pockets than me so I felt lucky to get the job done. So I will tell you a little about them:

Musgrave Jackpot is a son of BSF Hot Lotto, sire of dam is Connealy Consensus, and the 3rd dam is a full sister to the Famous EXT bull that is one of the highest used bulls ever in the Angus breed. His performance just jumped off of the page of the catalog to me. Birth weight of 75 lbs. weaning wt. of 979 lbs., yearling wt. of 1539. EPDS: B +2, W +83, M +20, Y +135, disposition +32. The weaning, yearling, and Doc scores all put him in the top 1% of the breed. He is a big nutted, long, powerfully made bull that is getting used very heavy in our program this year.

The 2nd bull is **Musgrave Blastoff**. His sire is Bruns Blaster, and his dam is an older cow that has been a great producer in the Musgrave herd, in fact she was a cover girl on one of their catalogs. His numbers are: birth weight 83, weaning 847, yearling - 1481. EPDS: B +1.3, W + 60, Y + 114, and doc +28. As you can see I like herd sires that have outstanding dispositions. It is such a wonderful trait to have in a herd of cattle for handling ability and safety for us folks working with them. Blastoff is a thick, long bull with possibly the best set of feet I have seen on a bull. When I saw the video of him on Facebook, I really liked him and first impressions are pretty important. I will try to get those videos put on the web site soon, but you can see them on the Facebook page by going into the picture section under Roger M Pierce. I urge you to take a look at them.

Over the years I think we have had one of the greatest herd bull batteries in the country for a long time. This is a list of the herd sires we have owned over the years: **Marshall Pride 659** (Certified Meat Sire), 1971 International Reserve Sr. Champion bull. One of the great foundation sires of outstanding females for us. He was a great carcass sire, and the reason we had about 50% primes with 75% YG 1's and 2's in about 300 head of cattle that traced back to him.

TC Doctor Zhivago, was the \$80,000 syndicate bull we purchased an interest in in 1982. We only had him for AI in the herd, but he left a great set of females for us. We got to use him hard for a couple of years, and then Black Thunder came into the program and the combination worked very well. His dam was one of the best cows you could find, she sold the day after we purchased him for \$80,000 also. He sired daughters that looked just like his mother.

Black Thunder of VAF, a powerfully made bull that sired outstanding cattle with almost every one of them making a replacement heifer or sale bull. One of the most consistent sires I have used. He was thick, good footed and had a great disposition; daughters had

great udders and teats. Some of the greatest cows we owned were daughters of him. He was out of a grand-daughter of Marshall Pride 659.

RMP Proud Thunder, a son of Black Thunder, and just a really powerful bull that we showed, winning his class at the Iowa State Fair as a 2 yr. old bull, and beat the high point show bull in the breed that day. He was very impressive; his dam was a daughter of Mr. Angus that was a very special cow for us.

RMP Big Mac. A show bull and extremely high performance sire we bred sired by MacKenzie and out of a great daughter of PS Power Play. He was the first bull we had weaned over 800 lbs. and was over 1500 lbs. at a year. He was one of the top 8 bulls in the breed in his days on yearling epd -- and he sired that into his calves. In one Tri-County steer test, he sired the 1st, 2nd and a son sired the 4th high placing steers in the test. His daughters made super producing daughters also.

RMP Omega. One of the best bulls we have used, was also bred in our herd. He was a son of Oscar 711; his daughters were the best producing cows we had had up to that point. After the 1st calf crop out of his daughters, the average production on weaning wt. was an average ratio of 120. He came up to one of the top milk epd bulls in the breed. And on carcass data his calves were amazing. Extremely high percentage of prime carcasses. Had a daughter that cut a Prime Plus yield grade 1. Customers would come back and get another son of Omega. One of the most popular sires of bulls we have used.

Mohnen Custer 504. We purchased him in 2015 as the 6th high selling bull in the Mohnen sale at \$27000 for 2/3 int. He was a member of the National Western Grand Champion carload of bulls. BW of 80 lbs. weaning wt. of 900 and yearling wt. of 1618 lbs. Truly a performance powerhouse. He has been used on heifers with great success. We had the misfortune of the bull dying in 2016 after his 2nd breeding season. But we have a good group of sons born last fall and the spring 2017, and a few coming 2 yr. olds for this coming breeding season.

Musgrave Jackpot and Musgrave Blastoff, mentioned earlier in this letter, 2 of the best to work here yet.

We feel the herd bull lineup that has made up this herd for the last 40 years have built a great program for us. We have used AI bulls over the years, but we have kept up to 60 daughters of several of these herd bulls, that's when you see how good a bull can be.

We are offering our usual **winter bull special**: buy and pay for a bull before **1/1/18, 10% off** the purchase price and we feed him free of charge 'till you need him. Anything happens to the bull while here, you get a bull of equal value.

If paid for by **2/1 the discount is 7.5%**

By 3/1 the discount is 5%, and by 4/1 the discount is 2.5%

I have a big selection of 2 year old and fall yearling and spring yearling bulls --about 50 head to pick from. Get here early to get the best buys, you can deduct them from your taxes before you ever have them on your place. Save some taxes and help pay for your next bull. Prices will start at \$3000 with most priced from \$3000 to \$5000 list price, with 10% off your savings can be from \$300 to \$500 or more. Plus volume and pickup discounts can apply.

All will be semen checked next spring and if not up to yours' and our satisfaction, you get a different bull.

Sons of Musgrave Finalist, TC Doc Holiday, and Mohnen Custer. Bulls for heifers, growth bulls, maternal bulls. Just give us a call and we'll set up a time you can see them, or many customers buy over the phone and have been very happy with their purchases. In fact a couple of years ago we sold 60% sight unseen.



Mohnen Custer

We are offering an outstanding group of young cows and bred heifers:

About **10 cows**, daughters of Musgrave Finalist, and Doc Holiday, all born 2012 to 2015. **Service sires are Musgrave Blastoff and Musgrave Jackpot.** Really a top set of cows, we have sold bulls out of several of them. A great foundation set of cows to add to or to start a new herd with. These are very good cows, I have reached a point where I need to cut back numbers.

About **10 bred heifers**, most are daughters of **Mohnen Custer bred to Musgrave Jackpot** and the best son of Doc Holiday we raised -- RMP Frontier Doc.

We will price by the head or as a group, and will put together a listing of these females with info on them, just give us a call.

These females are very reasonably priced, they are worth your consideration.



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