

TURNER ANGUS

Turner Angus is all about developing cattle the rancher can make a profit on. Paul Turner started putting together his registered cattle herd in 1993 and has worked to develop a low input cow that thrives on the dry short grass that grows in the gumbo soil of Montana.

It is easy to raise cows on good wet years but when it is droughty the easy doers become more valuable.

Turner has worked to develop hardy medium framed cows, with big middles for storage, who are excellent foragers on dry land. There is a balance that needs to be found in developing cows with sufficient milk and easy maintained body condition. Each of these traits contributes to a cow that will breed up during a drought and raise a healthy calf. Turner's bull can bring those genetics to your cow herd.

Turner states, "It is my responsibility as a seedstock producer to create the most genetically pure, prepotent animals I can. This way the commercial producer benefits from the increased fertility, consistency and hybrid vigor that comes with heterosis."

This statement's importance becomes more relevant with the 2nd Annual "Heterosis on the Hi-Line" Bull Sale. Turner will be selling his line-bred Black Angus bulls in the sale that includes 3 other seedstock breeders selling Hereford, Maine-Anjou, and Simmental. Research from land grant universities show that when done right cross-breeding can add to the weaning weight on the first cross and kept females from that cross will have increased milk production and longevity in the herd.

"The greatest amount of benefit gained by crossbreeding is with crossbred cows. Even though many stockmen use crossbreeding of straightbred parents to produce exceptional market calves (calves that gain faster than straightbreds and do well in the feedlot), the crossbred cow is the key to maximum beef production and profitability in a cow-calf operation, since hybrid vigor in the cow produces phenomenal maternal advantages. Research has shown that a crossbred cow is eight percent more efficient than a purebred cow, lives 38 percent longer and has 25 percent more lifetime production (pounds of calf weaned). This is partly due to the fact that crossbreeding has the biggest impact on traits that are not highly heritable (and hence more difficult to improve through selective breeding



Paul Turner strives to raise cattle that will make the rancher a profit.

within a breed), such as fertility, age at puberty, and longevity.

Crossbred cows live longer and are also less apt to be culled for being late or open, due to increased fertility. Any cow that can calve at two years of age, never miss a year of calving, and stay in your herd another year or two beyond average culling age makes you money. When you consider all the benefits of a crossbred cow, you can see why animal scientists call this the "only free lunch" in the cattle business. As pointed out by Dr. Larry Cundiff (U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska), data from their heterosis studies showed that breakeven costs of production were reduced about 10 percent by using crossbred cows. Another study at Montana State University compared effects of breed and heterosis on heifer pregnancy using purebred and crossbred females of several breeds. Results showed that a higher percent of crossbred heifers calved at two years of age (reaching puberty and becoming pregnant earlier) than purebreds."- Cross Breeding Provides Benefits to Breeding Programs: Heather Smith Thomas

Turner believes that line breeding in his herd has improved the consistency in calves that the commercial producer will get using them. Consistency in steer calves and replacement females helps in figuring nutritional needs for a herd. When you have large and small cattle mixed it increases the difficulty of ensuring they are all getting what they need for maximum growth and health. Line bred bulls will also help to maximize on the vigor received from cross breeding. His bulls will be available for sale April 1, 2016 at the Flesch Bull Development Center in Shelby, Montana. The Heterosis on the Hi-Line Sale starts at 1:00pm.