



PROGRAM INFORMATION

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GARDINER ANGUS RANCH INTERSHIP PROGRAM

OUR HISTORY

In the spring of 1885 Henry Gardiner's grandfather and grandmother traveled in a caravan of covered wagons to Ashland, Kansas. The Gardiners lived in a dugout for nine years on their 160 acres of homesteaded land where their son, Ralph, was born in 1889.

During the late 1800s and early 1900's the Gardiner family faced many challenges. The family lost their original homestead of 160 acres in 1894. Ralph Gardiner, Henry's father, began putting together the present day Gardiner Ranch in the 1920's. However, during the depression years of the 1930's the family again lost the majority (2000 acres) of the ranch to foreclosure after a wheat crop was hailed out and they could not make a payment. Despite the repeated challenges, the Gardiner family always regrouped to start again.

Henry Gardiner was born in 1931 and worked on the ranch with his father until he became the first in the family to attend Kansas State University from 1948-1951. After short stint in U.S. Army, Henry returned to the ranch and married Nan Arnold in 1955. Together they raised three sons, Greg, Mark and Garth. The ranch became known as "Gardiner Angus Ranch" (GAR) in 1948 when the first Angus seedstock animal was produced at GAR. Today the ranch is operated by Henry and Nan Gardiner along with their three sons, Greg, Mark and Garth, and their families.

During the 1950s and 1960s the ranch struggled to be profitable. In fact, the ranch never sold a bull for more than \$1000 until 1980. Since that time GAR has grown from a break-even business to a business that has sales of greater than \$8 million per year.

GARDINER ANGUS RANCH TODAY

As a family-owned seedstock operation, Gardiner Angus Ranch is dedicated to the production of quality beef from ranch to plate. The home ranch consists of 27,000 acres and is supplemented by leasing the 22,000-acre Dunne Ranch which lies immediately to the south and east of the home ranch. Twelve hundred cows calve on the ranch from August to October. In addition, 1,000 spring calves are born in cooperator herds where embryos collected at the ranch are transferred to recipient cows.

Gardiner Angus Ranch cattle are marketed in two annual production sales and by private treaty. The Fall Sale (last Monday in September) consists of over 400 12- to 18-month-old bulls and a large group of commercial bred cows and heifers. Sixteen hundred head sell in the annual Spring Sale (first Saturday in April). The offering of 18-month-old Angus bulls and registered Angus females highlight the Spring Sale. The Spring Sale also includes over 400 bred commercial cows and heifers and a group of ranch horses. In addition to the annual production sales, 1,200 GAR bulls are marketed by private treaty each year. For more information on the annual sales, check out the sale catalogs and sale reports on the GAR website: www.gardinerangus.com.

The breeding program at GAR has been 100% artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) since 1964. Beginning after publication of the first Angus Sire Summary in 1980, only high-accuracy, progeny-proven bulls have been used in the GAR sire selection program. The ranch exercises a great deal of discipline in sire selection to produce bulls that provide GAR customers with the most predictable cattle genetics possible. The goal of the GAR breeding program has always been "to produce quality pounds in the correct package." The aim is to produce bulls for commercial herds that sire calves with acceptable birth weights followed by explosive growth to the endpoint that maximizes their value in the beef industry.

Each fall and winter approximately 800 registered heifers and 400 registered cows are bred by AI to high-accuracy, progeny-proven Angus sires. The breeding program also includes a year-round ET donor program that generates 2,500 embryos per year to be transferred to the 1,300 commercial cows on the ranch or to recipients in one of four cooperator herds.

Cows at GAR are pastured on native grasses in summer and graze wheat pastures from late fall to late spring. During breeding (November – February) registered and commercial females are confined to pens near the AI center and fed a total mixed ration of wheat silage, dried distillers grains, ground hay and other supplements. As soon as pregnancy can be diagnosed via ultrasound, pregnant cows and heifers are moved from breeding pens back to into pastures.

Bulls born on the ranch and those returned from ET cooperator herds after weaning are performance tested on the ranch during a 90-day feeding period. Bulls go on test weighing 900 lbs and after consuming a ration of wheat silage, alfalfa, dried distillers grains and mineral supplement, finish at an average weight close to 1300 lbs. After the feed test, bulls are sold by private treaty or returned to pastures to



await one of the annual sales.

The farming operations at GAR center on the planting of 4,500 acres of wheat and managing 640 acres of alfalfa for hay. Wheat is

used for pasture during the winter/spring or harvested in early summer. Non-irrigated alfalfa serves as a valuable roughage and protein source for cow and bull rations. In addition to the alfalfa, over 3,000 rolls of native grass hay are harvested during June and July. The hay serves as one of the primary roughage sources for cattle held in the pens around the AI center.

In addition to the Gardiner family, the ranch employs five experi-

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT GARDINER ANGUS RANCH

Gardiner Angus Ranch is seeking student interns from Land-Grant, agricultural universities who are interested in animal genetics, animal nutrition, animal health, reproductive management and/or marketing of purebred cattle. Applicants should be junior or senior undergraduate students with a background or major related to animal agriculture.

The goal of the internship program is to increase the knowledge and ability of undergraduate students in ranch management and mar-

enced, full-time staff. Each staff member is responsible for specific ranch management duties. However, effective management of the ranch depends on the coordinated effort of the staff and family members working together.

More information about the ranch can be found at the GAR website: www.gardinerangus.com.

keting of purebred cattle and to enhance their potential to become leaders in the livestock industry.

Selection criteria include: 1) livestock industry background and experience; 2) academic performance and extracurricular activities; 3) career goals and leadership potential; and 4) work ethic and attitude.

A 10-week internship is available in the fall and in the spring (flexible timing based on college curriculum). Dates and activities associated with each internship period are outlined below:

SPRING: January – April

During this time of year completion of AI breeding, ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis, superovulation of donors and embryo collection, semen testing of sale bulls, preparation of sale cattle and conducting the Spring Sale are the main activities. Interns would participate in the AI program, become familiar with ultrasonography for pregnancy diagnosis and fetal sex determination, and be involved in all aspects of the pre-sale planning and sale procedures. The ranch sells over 1,600 head in the Spring Sale, the largest sale of the year.

Intern Duties—interns will receive training and assist in the following: heat detection, record keeping, treating donors for superovulation, monitoring cows and calves for sickness, operating heavy equipment, feeding silage and hay, freeze branding, assisting in semen collection and bull evaluation, preparing and proofreading sale catalog, daily handling and moving of sale cattle.

FALL: August – November

Fall activities focus on completing the calving season, conducting the Fall Sale, gathering cow/calf pairs and heifers from summer pastures, processing calves, collection of embryos and beginning the AI breeding season. Interns would participate in calving watch, sale planning, gathering cattle from pastures on horseback, treating donors for superovulation and beginning the AI breeding program. The ranch breeds over 1,200 head of registered females and transfers embryos to 1,300 recipient cows during the fall breeding season.

Intern Duties—interns will receive training and assist in the following: calving, record keeping, monitoring cows and calves for sickness, vaccination of calves, operating heavy equipment, feeding silage and hay, freeze branding, moving cattle on horseback, sorting and moving bulls for private treaty and production sales, conducting the Fall Sale, estrus synchronization and heat detection of cattle.

Interns will be provided with housing on the ranch, but will be responsible for their own meals. Each intern must provide proof of health insurance. The work schedule at GAR is typically 6 or 6-1/2 days per week. Work days often begin at 7 am and may not be complete until after 6 pm. Additional free time can be arranged with advance notice. In addition to educational opportunities on the ranch,

interns will be presented with the opportunity to learn from veterinary professionals, feedlot operators, nutritional consultants, sale consultants and processing plant managers during the 10-week internship period. Each intern will receive a \$2000 stipend upon successful completion of the 10-week internship.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY:

- Undergraduate Junior or Senior at land-grant or agricultural university
- Background or major related to animal agriculture
- Interest in animal genetics, animal nutrition, animal health, reproductive management and/or marketing of purebred cattle.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Background and experience in the livestock industry
- Academic performance and extracurricular activities
- Career goals and leadership potential
- Work ethic and attitude

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Completed Gardiner Angus Ranch Internship application (see website to download)
- Copy of college transcripts (unofficial transcripts acceptable)
- Two letters of reference (see application for instructions to references)

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT: www.gardinerangus.com

Submit application materials :

Via U.S. mail

Mark Gardiner
Gardiner Angus Ranch
2607 County Road 13
Ashland, KS 67831

Via E-mail (preferred)

gar@ucom.net

OR

Application materials must be received by:

SPRING INTERNSHIP - October 15th
FALL INTERNSHIP - March 15th



**Don't just buy a breed.
BUY A BRAND.**