

Summary of Sept. 19, 2003 OMGA Meeting and Tour of the Lucasville, Ohio, Prison Farm

by M. E. Wozny

Featured Presentation and Tour of Lucasville Cattle Operations

- Dr. Fernando Silveira and Mr. Carson Spencer (Assistant Manager of Beef Operations) provided overview of cow/calf operation at this site, and use of MG PB cattle as part of breeding herd, followed by tour of each section of farm, and each brood cow herd.
 - This farm was managed originally as strictly a feedlot of ODRC meat animals using farm's grain crops, feeding 2000 head per yr.
 - Has gone from original management system to mainly a cow/calf operation to better utilize the rolling terrain that is majority of the acreage, and feeding mainly grass in summer, hay and silage in winter.
 - A small feedlot area is still in use, and the farm feeds out all the male calves born here, to provide some of the meat needed for the Lucasville prison; finish 24 head per month.
 - Farm uses the "southeastern Ohio special minerals mix" developed by OSU, due to fescue content of pastures.
 - Bottomland is still used for corn, but emphasis now on cow/calf production.
 - All cattle, all breeds, at this facility are on autumn-calving cycle.
 - Three breed groups present: Angus (incl. Red and black), Murray Grey, Shorthorn (Shorthorn group includes some "all other cows" that looked like mainly Shorthorn genetics)
 - All breeds, including MG, were bred naturally for 2003 fall-calving season.
 - Bulls of all breeds now together in small pasture area, awaiting clean-up use later this fall.
 - MG-specifics:
 - MG conception rate was 95% - no issues.
 - No calving problems with any of the MG's - all unassisted.
 - Birth weight range for MG was 50 – 100 lbs, believed due mainly to diverse origin of this initial herd group for this initial calving season.
 - Looked like there were more heifer calves than bulls born this year, and all looked very robust; heifer calves will be retained to expand the brood cowherd.
 - For next breeding season in ~ November, CIDR's implantation protocol followed by AI with semen, for each respective breed, will be used on all cows, to be followed by use of the clean-up bulls of each respective breed on each respective cow herd.
 - All cattle of all breeds looked in excellent condition!