

Tri-State Beef Conference Pre-conference Tour

August 6, 2012

4-S Cattle Company Clint and Shannon Sykes

Lebanon, Virginia

Clint and Shannon Sykes operate the 4-S Cattle Company in Lebanon, Virginia. The Sykes have a diversified operation: they graze stockers, back-ground feeder calves, have organized “take-up sales / buying station,” and purchase cattle out of the field. They ship calves to numerous clients throughout the Midwest. In addition to the stocker enterprise, they do have a cow/calf herd.

Growing both mixed hay and corn for silage, Clint and Shannon feed a total mixed ration in feed bunks with a mix wagon. They purchase commodity feeds and utilize them in the ration. They are currently building a new commodity shed to be able to purchase and store feeds when prices are low.

Smithfield Farm John Henry and Andy Smith

Rosedale, Virginia

Few cattlemen can imagine operating on land that has been in the family since 1774, but the Smiths of Rosedale, Virginia have done just that!

John Henry and Andy Smith are the owners of Smithfield Farm. They have put together a superior set of Angus based cows (300+) that are well adapted to the mountain pastures of Russell County. John Henry and Andy typically market two tractor-trailer loads of source and age verified steer calves that are sold after a complete back-grounding program through the Virginia Cattlemen’s Tel-O-Auction Sale. The steers have developed a well-earned reputation and are keenly sought after by buyers.

Smithfield Farm *continued*

Both Virginia Tech graduates, John Henry and Andy are both known for their skills as stockmen and advocates for the beef industry. John Henry is an effective spokesman for agriculture: testifying before the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, doing interviews on National Public Radio, and working with state and federal elected officials to promote the interests of beef producers. John Henry was recently recognized as the "The Virginia Cattlemen's Association Cattlemen of the Year." Andy is active in Farm Bureau, and he was recently awarded the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers Achievement Award. Recognizing this award, the Virginia House of Delegates recently passed a resolution commending him for this accomplishment.

Dr. Dee Whittier

Professor

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Whittier is a professor of production management medicine and a bovine specialist in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. He is also the Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialist for beef cattle for the college. He received his DVM in 1979 from the University of California-Davis and his M.S. in 1983 from Virginia Tech. Prior to joining the college in 1980, he completed an internship in large animal medicine and surgery at the University of Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary Medicine. His research interests are applied bovine internal parasitology, applied bovine reproduction, and beef cattle marketing and disease. Whittier serves as an educational advisor and was also on the founding committee for the Virginia Academy for Food Animal Practice. In addition, he is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the American Association of Extension Veterinarians, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, the National Association of Agricultural Extension Agents and Phi Kappa Phi.