



One of the young bulls that Woodpile Ranch is producing.

Angus Ranch by studying their program."

The majority of the cattle at Woodpile Ranch can be traced back to Rito and Traveler bloodlines. Their A.I. program includes the best bulls from such programs as Gardiner Angus Ranch (4144 and



One of the heifers that Woodpile is retaining for their herd.

Grid Maker), Whitestone-Krebs (ND1407), Twin Valley (E161) and Wehrman Angus from whom they purchased their herd bull, Rito 2C14 of 2536 65D. Rito 2C14 recorded the highest %IMF score of all GAR Precision 2536 progeny scanned at 8.14. They intend to selectively A.I. his daughters to improve this trait.

James and Dolores are both quick to note that they really appreciate Mississippi State University and the MSU Extension Service for their support.

"Mississippi State has been the ultimate guiding force with our herd," states James.

"I've been impressed with the professionalism of the Townsends and the quality of the cattle," states Roy Higdon, area livestock specialist. "They understand what it's going to take to be successful in their segment of the industry."

Calving time at Woodpile Ranch is split into a spring and a fall season. The Townsends like the two calving seasons

because it allows them to have bulls available to their customers year round. As a general rule, they do not like to sell bulls less than 15 months of age. "We like to be in control of finishing our bulls out," state James. "That way we know that they have been fed and taken care of and are ready for someone to use."

The marketing program for the bulls has been mainly through private treaty, but this year they have consigned four bulls to the Mississippi BCIA Sale in Raymond. Most of their buyers are commercial cattlemen within a 200-mile radius of the farm. Many of their customers come back time and again for the quality bulls that Woodpile is becoming known for.

Their heifers are also sold directly off the farm with only a few select heifers retained in the herd each year. "I would rather buy cows already in production from cow families that we would like to add to our herd," states James.

The Townsends are beginning to work with their customers to group like sets of calves to sell in truckload lots.

Vaccinations for IBR, BVD, PI3, and Blackleg are given at weaning. Deworming is done twice a year.

All the hay production is done by

the Townsends, mostly on leased land. James believes in using hay



One of the foundation cows of the Woodpile herd.

samples to determine the quality of the hay being produced. The Townsends are following a nutritional program tailored for them by the Extension Service.

When not working with the 100-head Angus herd at Woodpile, the family owns and operates a successful swimming pool renovation business. They renovate existing inground and suspended pools for the government, municipalities, state parks, resorts and residences around the country. The business takes James away from home much of the time and that leaves Dolores to take care of the cattle, a job that she enjoys.

The Townsends are members of both the Mississippi Angus Association and the American



Angus Association.

You can be assured that many years of prosperity in the cattle business are in store for Woodpile Ranch.