

# featured Farm

by: Charles Hord

On the banks of the Tennessee River in Lenoir City, Dr. John Montgomery is fulfilling his lifelong dream. The retired ophthalmologist is raising pure bred Red Angus cattle on the farm he purchased approximately five years ago. MontVue Farms Red Angus is now selling southern raised heat adapted angus genetics throughout the southeast, with a focus on fulfilling the needs of the commercial beef cattle producer. Dr. Montgomery had grown up in east Tennessee raising polled Herefords on his family farm. It was while on a trip to Montana in 1994 to the Leachman Cattle Co. that his passion for Red Angus began. "Leachman had Red Angus, Black Angus, Simmental, South Devon and Salers., recalled Montgomery. "When I stepped into the pen with the Red Angus none of them challenged me." Montgomery also liked the focus the Red Angus had on performance rather than the show ring.

In 1995, the Red Angus Association went to total herd reporting. Montgomery believes this was a key for their breed. "We report the good, bad and ugly on our

## MontVue Farm Red Angus

cows. All our cows and calves are accounted for when we report. If they are not reported, then they drop out of the registry." Montgomery believes this helps the breed have more predictability and accuracy on their EPD's. This has lead Montgomery to have a lot of confidence in his breed's carcass quality, birth weight and calving ease of Red Angus. "The calving ease is phenomenal and we have no distocia."

The first thing you notice when you visit Dr. Montgomery's farm, is the beauty of the surrounding hills and the scenic Tennessee River that acts as a border. Once you step out of the truck, you see what Dr. Montgomery saw on his trip to Montana. None of the cows respond to the truck in the field or to us as we walk through the herd. Montgomery even walks up

to his bull and rubs him on the back. He eventually moves away to check on a cow he is interested in but only a few feet. These are not show cows but they have an innate easy going disposition that allows you to walk through them and check on them or handle them



Dr. John Montgomery, Garry Graham and Chris Thompson pictured with the Red Angus of MontVue Farm.

when needed. Even the young heifers and bulls that had just been worked through the chute the day before allowed us to get close to them. The second thing you may notice, is the udders on all the cows. Montgomery and his manager Chris Thompson, have focused on the udders and feet of the cows in their operation. Their herd is also certified brucellosis free and they test for Johnnies and BVD. Their cattle also receive blackleg and pinkeye and respiratory and lepto vaccinations every six months. Thompson uses artificial insemination to add quality genetics to their herd and they also flush their best cows and use embryo transfer to promote the best genetics in their herd. Red Angus, like all Angus are known for their carcass quality. This has made them popular with breeders in Florida that want to add some carcass quality to their Brangus genetics. Florida has become a large market for the MontVue bulls. Not only do the bulls add carcass quality traits to the Brangus calves, the bulls from

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Montvue respond very well to the heat of Florida and Georgia. Montgomery explains that the red hide of his Angus reflect heat much better than black cows and have less fly problems. Garry Graham also assists on MontVue farms. He has seen buyers in Tennessee come back as repeat customers once they see how red angus do in the heat of the summer. "They will be out grazing while the rest of the herd is in the shade somewhere." MontVue has also focused on adapting his cattle to a fescue based forage and pasture conditions of the southeast. MontVue has taken all the corn out of their bull development program. They feed silage and corn glutton to their herd instead. They have not seen any difference when they ultrasound for marbling or rib eye area. Once they have recorded the bulls weights for reporting purposes, the bulls are turned out to pasture.

Besides the focus on udders and feet of their cattle herd, MontVue has breed for moderate sized cattle in the 1,100 lb range. These cows will wean a calf off in the 600 to 700 lb range and finish in the 1,100 lb range. Montgomery believes this is what the market needs in a finished product. The Red Angus association is also focusing on a marketing program for their growing association. Their Feeder Calf Certification Program helps market calves with at least 50% red angus bloodlines. This is an age and source verified program that

allows producers to get value back from their cattle's genetics. Montgomery believes his Red

Angus bulls will cross well with nearly any breed of cows in Tennessee and that they will have good longevity in producers herds. Producers interested in MontVue bulls can contact Dr. John Montgomery at 865-414-1955 or Chris Thompson at 865-806-7767. For more information visit [www.montvuefarm.com](http://www.montvuefarm.com).

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