Grazing at PAA

DAN COOK – PRODUCTION ANGUS ASSOCIATES
PAA Operation Goals

• Purebred Angus
  – Contemporary calf groups affect pasture arrangement

• Bull sales

• Optimize available grass to maximize animal performance

• $$\text{Maximize grazing to minimize feeding}$$
Grazing Year

- March 1 – Calving
- May 1 – Grass turn-out
- June 1 – Breeding (AI)
  - No sync
  - First calf heifers bull bred
- July 1 – Sort for summer grazing
  - Sort cow pairs by calf sex
  - Sort Yearling heifers by pedigree
- October 1 – Weaning
- November 1 – Corn stalks
- Dec. 1 – Start feeding cows
- Feb. 15 – Back to calving pasture
Calving

Optimal

Reality
Calving
Grass turn-out/recovery

Rotation, Rotation, Rotation!
May 1 Move
Grass turn-out/recovery
July 1 Sort & Move

- Sort pairs by calf sex
  - Enhances relevancy of contemporary groups
  - Bull calves are creep fed
  - Heifers not creep fed
- Yearling heifers sorted by pedigree to compliment clean-up bull
Fall Grazing

• Feed cost advantage
• Prime cow recovery time
• Start feeding cows roughly early December
  – Stocking density
  – Weather
• Water source
• Mineral
Winter Feed

• Resources
• Weather dependent diet
• Feed to scatter manure
What are your goals?

• What are you trying to produce?
• What resources do you have?
  – (Land, labor, capital)
• How do you want to market your product?