

December 2011

Angus Steers

Official Placing: 3-4-1-2

Cuts: 2-4-3

I placed the class of Angus Steers, 3-4-1-2. In my top pair of more structurally correct and heavier muscled steers, I preferred 3 over 4. More specifically 3 is a heavier muscled steer with more muscle expression down his top and in his lower quarter. Thus, when hung on the rail you would expect for him to hang a pounds heavier carcass with more pounds of edible product. I realize that 4 is a deeper sided steer, who is smoother about his shoulder. Yet, at the same time, he needs to possess a better slope to his rear legs and have more muscle shape when viewed from behind.

Even so in my middle pair of steers, I prefer 4 over 1, as he best combines structure, balance, and uniformity of muscle to the highest degree. The hairy eared steer is more correct in his angulation from stifle to hock and hock to the ground. He too, carries a greater volume of muscle down a more correctly turned top, possess more depth of rib and flank. I recognize that 1 is cleaner up through his neck and brisket but he also is more structurally incorrect off his rear legs, shallower volumed, and more ill-balanced from a profile.

In my concluding pair of Angus Steers my preferred alignment is 1 over 2. 1 is a bolder appearing steer that is deeper about his rib. Furthermore, he is a stouter made steer with more true muscle shape over his ribeye and upper hind quarter. Thus, one would expect for 1 to have a more desirable yield grade and hang a meatier carcass on the rail. I admit 2 is longer and trimmer in his neck but he is also the shallowest made, the narrowest tracking, and lightest muscled steer of the class.

Thank you,

Ryan Harrell