

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



"You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." -James 4:14

This Bible verse has been a huge motivator to Brent Voss. He seeks to live every second with purpose and has no intention of slowing down. He's constantly looking for the next project to complete, the next goal to achieve, and loves getting to know new people. It's this motivated mindset that has allowed him to grow one of Iowa's largest Angus operations from the ground up.

We hope you enjoy learning more about Brent Voss, founder of Voss Angus. After talking to Brent, we know his efforts will leave a legacy in the Angus breed.

Brent Voss has a strong passion for being a master at building projects and a problem solver. Once he has a vision for something, he strives to achieve it in great depth. One thing I learned about Brent is there are no shortcuts with him! He learned this trait from his father at a very young age and still sticks with him today.

Brent's building career started as he worked alongside his late father Jerry Voss who passed away when Brent was only 15. Jerry owned his own excavating business in Oskaloosa. Brent had learned very fast the tricks of the trade from his late father and became 100% work minded. He continued running his father's dozer digging out basements, making parking lots, and clearing debris for builders to name a few. Brent took on contracting jobs and built the skills he needed for a career in construction all while still in high school.

Upon graduating from Oskaloosa High School in 1989, Brent put himself through college at Indian Hills graduating

with a 2-year-degree. He eventually found a construction job pouring footings and foundations and that is where his real passion shined. Working in Des Moines is where he met his wife, Teresa. She worked for her family business also pouring footings and foundations as well as a catering business that went to job sites all over the metro. This is where the two met. That summer they built their relationship that has stood the test of time. They have been happily married for 31 years this October.

Early in their marriage, Brent and Teresa ventured out on their own starting a concrete business. Although it came with many challenges, they wouldn't change a thing about how they started. Both Brent and Teresa would drive to the pallet company in Redfield, Iowa, and get as many pieces of thrown away lumber as they could to make wood stakes for builders and sell as secondary income. They revamped their old chicken house into a small

workspace to do so all while taking care of their first child, Brant, who they placed in his stroller under a heat lamp to stay warm while they both worked wrapping up bundles of wood stakes. These are the days they remember fondly.

After the birth of their second child, Victoria, in 1993 they found a place of their own just outside of Dexter. Buying it on contract was the only way they were able to purchase the 45-acre piece of ground with an older house on it. Brent could see the potential in it and how he could transform it, although it took some convincing of his wife as this house needed extreme attention and they had a very tight budget. They agreed to purchase it, and this is where the family of then four really started. Today, they are a family with 6 children (Brant, Victoria, Bryton, twins Grace & Katlynn, and lastly Alexis).

Brent's construction business started to flourish over the next few years. Eventually



VOSS FAMILY

VOSS ANGUS



VOSS ANGUS CLIPPING CREW



VOSS ANGUS CREW

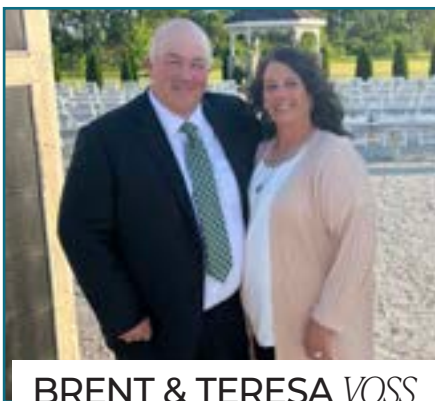
they added a waterproofing business and over time a concrete pumping business. Those businesses are very integral to their foundation business to this day.

While construction is Brent's passion, so are cattle. Livestock has always been a part of Brent's life even as a young child. His grandparents had cattle and hogs as well as aunts and uncles, so he has always been very familiar with livestock. He always worked with them growing up in his spare time.



In 1995 Brent purchased 22 registered Angus cows and this is where his love for black Angus cattle really took off.

Brent and Teresa developed a tremendous relationship with an older couple who lived up the road from them, Marie & Alan Atherton. These two became a huge part of their lives and their kids' lives. Brent started raising fat cattle with Alan. The two were always together with their herd up to Alan's passing. In 1995 Brent purchased 22 registered Angus cows and this is where his love for black Angus cattle really took off. "I'm more addicted to them every day, there's nothing better than new



BRENT & TERESA VOSS

life on the farm."

Fast forward a few years and they started Voss Angus. They were hooked on the Angus breed. Although still raising the fat cattle, they wanted to create a herd that was good enough to market to other producers. "I knew I wanted to get the best genetics" and they looked to Schaff Angus Valley for that source. Brent and Teresa's relationship with Kelli and Marti Schaff has only grown. "They are not only one of our greatest genetic sources but true friends of ours" states Brent. "We are very like-minded."

Continuing their program, the Voss team focuses heavily on maternal ability. Brent loves to have a pasture full of deep, big ribbed females. They thoughtfully manage these cattle to ensure their offspring are given the best start possible from the very beginning embryonic stage. His management practices are constantly being analyzed to ensure cows are clean, dry and comfortable all while staying well-conditioned.

"We focus heavily on nutrition at Voss Angus. Nutrition is key to everything." Today, Voss's rations are carefully developed by an animal nutritionist, Dr. Allen Statler. "Bringing Allen here has helped us not only grow our herd in ways to produce great calves, but his knowledge in nutrition has been unmatched. His standards are set very high, and we are very much accountable to him. He watches our program from beginning to end and we love that."

Voss Angus has assembled a wonderful team of people to make a successful Angus business. This group is truly very important to Brent and Teresa. Their intent with every person brought onboard is for them to gain knowledge and hopefully finish their careers with them. Their crew today includes oldest son Brant Voss, daughter Victoria McCorkel, son Bryton Voss, Christian Graham, Korbin Nourse and Beau Nielson.

Today, Voss Angus focus is to continuously increase the quality of their annual sale offering. There is really no end goal. They look forward to providing their customers with genetics that they can also grow their herds with. "I want to keep and make lifelong friendships along the way. To do that, I have certain criteria. #1 is always quality, I want you to feel good about your purchase. #2 is we will stand behind our product, we are always there for you the customer."

Brent ended our conversation by saying, "We live in one of the greatest places on earth. All you need is passion and enthusiasm for what you do and a work ethic that's out of control and you can achieve anything you desire. We are proof that anything is possible if you give it your all and give God your all. And you will be fulfilled with an outpouring of blessings. We look forward to seeing everyone in February at our annual sale."

Q&A

Which EPD is most important to your program?

EPDs are important, but there are other important traits there are no EPDs for, such as fertility, longevity, and fleshing ability. Females need to be very maternal, have good udders, good fleshing ability, correct feet structure and be extremely fertile. This is what moves the bar for our customers. They need cows that produce good calves while staying in a good body score.

Which EPD is over emphasized by our industry?

People stack too much birthweight on top of birthweight. I don't want a 50-60lb calf. We strive for 70-75lb calves. If you start too small, you can never catch up. Our calves need to perform, because Voss Angus customers are selling by the pound.

What animal has made the largest impact on your program?

Several herd sires have made a large impact at Voss Angus including Renown, Resource, President, and America.

The Madame Pride and Blackcap May cow families have been phenomenal for us. Also Coleman Chloe and our clone to Blackcap May 4136 are leaving their mark on our program.