

ANDERSON BRED HEIFERS “PROUDLY BUILDING COW HERDS”

For Scott Anderson, the roots of his program run deep in both family history and the Charolais breed itself. He grew up on a mixed farm just west of Bowden, Alberta, under the banner of Sunset Acres Charolais, and his parents, Gary and Faye’s well-respected purebred herd. Throughout the 1980s, they teamed up with Dick, Robbie, and Doug Moore from Moore Charolais and together the Andersons hosted annual production sales from their quonset on the first Monday in December. Bred cows, bred heifers, yearling bulls, and cow/calf pairs were sold every year at the sale. That joint production sale became synonymous with quality cattle and honest dealing.



Sunset Acres Charolais circa. 1986



"I was only ten or eleven when those sales started," Scott recalls. "But even then, I just knew cattle would always be a huge part of my life."

In 1989, Sunset Acres Charolais did indeed go off into the sunset, dispersing their purebred herd at the Red Deer Centrium. It was a big sale, a big moment, and the close of a chapter — but Scott's journey hadn't even begun. That same year, he graduated from high school and enrolled in Agriculture Production at Olds College. In 1991, he then returned and began establishing his own farm one mile west of his childhood home and kept cattle a central part of his life's focus. Over the years, the size of both the grain

and cattle operations grew. This year, he started with 1100 heifers, and the farm seeded 3000 acres of grain.

Marriage, raising two boys, coaching minor hockey, and building the farm filled the years that followed. Life moved at a steady pace until 2014, when tragedy reshaped everything. Scott's wife, Melanie, passed away suddenly, leaving Scott to raise two sons aged 13 and 15 on his own. "Life changed forever overnight," he reflects quietly. "But we dealt with it as best as we could. I was incredibly proud of how the boys carried on. We chose to find a way to not only move forward, but to excel."

Even before Melanie's passing, what would become the Anderson Bred Heifer program was taking shape. For many years, Scott had purchased bred heifers from the Kohut family from Didsbury, who were known for selling top-quality commercial bred heifers. When the Kohuts decided to retire, Scott approached Danny, Mark, and Duane Daines and asked for permission to inherit the Kohut December sale date at the Innisfail Auction Mart. And so, it began. "It was an opportunity," Scott says. "They had built a reputation for quality, and I wanted to carry that forward — but also make it my own."

The first sale was modest: 75 mostly red heifers bred Red Angus to calve in February/March.



Auctioneer Jerry Kanewischer with ringmen George P. Anderson and Rod McLeod in the 1982 joint production sale in the Sunset Acre Charolais quonset.

Then, as the years went by, black and tan heifers were added to the program, and the numbers grew. Over time, word was spreading about the quality and consistency of these Anderson heifers. Today, the first Monday in December is firmly established as the Anderson Bred Heifer Sale in Innisfail, drawing commercial and purebred cattlemen from across Western Canada and beyond. This just so happens to be the same day as his parents' purebred sales years earlier.

He has a neat way of explaining to people where the heifers originate. Often getting questioned as to whether the heifers are home-raised, Scott replies, "They are home-raised by someone. We can't supply these numbers by raising them all ourselves." Throughout last fall, Scott



Scott reping the Charolais breed at the Bowden Grandview School Science Fair in Grade 8 (1985)



Scott in the ring with the high selling bull during the 1983 production sale with the sale crew in the background. This picture was taken in the quonset at Sunset Acres Charolais.

ANDERSON BRED HEIFERS 12TH ANNUAL SALE

ANDERSON
BRED HEIFERS

Monday, December 1st, 12:00 PM, at Innisfail Auction Market
Approximately 500 head, largely Simmental influenced Red, Black & Tan heifers.
Solid coloured & blazed faced packages bred to the finest
Red & Black Angus and Charolais heifer bulls in the industry.
Numerous sire group options. Something for everyone.
Calving dates of January 1-12 and February 1-March 31



Anderson Bred Heifers - 50 Red Heifer pairs
with Charolais sired calves at foot will be on offer
February 18, 2026, in conjunction with
McLeod Livestock Charolais Bull Sale at Olds



Scott Anderson • Bowden, AB • 403-507-1156

PROUDLY BUILDING COWHERDS



personally sourced elite females from 14 different auction markets spanning British Columbia to Saskatchewan, not including private sales and top-ranked commercial events. Once again, this fall, the Grand Champion pen of commercial heifers from Agribition will sell. The Grand Champion pen of heifers from the Little Royal Heifer Show in Fort Macleod will sell. The Grand Champion heifer from the 2024 Edam Fall Fair will sell. Only the finest heifers get the privilege to be in this program.

One unique hallmark of the sale is that there is no official sale order. “The last group in the ring must be just as good as the first. This program is built on quality. I allowed quantity to happen once I learned how to figure out the quality part.”

A turning point came when Rod McLeod suggested Scott try breeding some of his heifers Charolais with the intent to sell some pairs in their annual bull sale. At the time, it was still unusual. “Not many programs were breeding heifers Charolais,” Scott explains. “It was considered risky, almost taboo.” But the results

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2023 Innisfail Auction Mart Anderson Bred Heifer Sale

and the demand have been tremendous. His program today breeds 350 red heifers to Charolais heifer bulls sourced exclusively from the McLeod genetics.

"We don't have any more trouble calving Charolais than we do with Red or Black Angus," Scott says. "As long as you pick the right bulls, they work. And the calves — the buckskins—are as marketable as anything in the industry."

So today, Charolais are at the heart of the Anderson program. Scott has joined the McLeod Livestock & Triple M Farms bull sale in Olds with 45-50 of his young red females and beautiful Charolais calves at side, leading off the annual bull sale. This unbelievable display showcases not only the strength of the Anderson program but also, the ability to use Charolais bulls on heifers.

The program has become very much a hybrid; the heifers are commercial genetics, but the man markets them like a purebred herd and stands behind them as such. Three different sire groups are used: Charolais, Red Angus, and Black Angus. Different calving dates are also part of this well-managed program. "We honestly try to have something to fit everyone's wants and needs", Scott mentions.

This year marks the 12th annual Anderson Bred

Heifer Sale. On Monday, December 1st at the Innisfail Auction Mart, another 550 bred heifers will be sold, with demand coming not only from Alberta and Saskatchewan, but also from as far as Ontario, where



Picture of our Anderson Bred Heifer sign, in close proximity to both Sunset Acres & Scotts farm





Anderson females are quietly becoming the backbone of commercial cow herds out east.

Behind the growth of the program is a philosophy Scott refuses to compromise on. “She has to be quiet before I worry about whether or not she’s good. Period. There are too many cattle out there for my customers to have to worry about the wild ones. I’m ruthless when it comes to disposition and to my vet’s opinion on palpation. I end up culling lots of heifers

that make you wince when you see the extraordinary quality of the cull pen. But it’s the way I do it.” That commitment extends to soundness, foot structure, udder quality, and overall balance. These heifers are heavily scrutinized.

Another guiding principle is that none are sold privately, and they all go to the sale ring — not into Scott’s own herd. His 250-head cow/calf operation is made up of the heifers with a stub horn, tipped or

“BUT I DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO TRY TO SELL THE BEST COMMERCIAL BRED HEIFERS IN NORTH AMERICA.”





Scott presenting a Anderson Bred Heifer 4-H buckle to a Grand Champion

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split ear, or shortened tail. Still top quality, but not up to his standards for taking to the sale. “Early on, I kept the top end for myself,” he says. “But I decided that I wanted to try to sell the best commercial bred heifers in North America, and to do that, I’d have to bring the best to town. It’s that simple.”

The Anderson Bred Heifer motto, Proudly Building Cowherds, is far from just a slogan.

Across the country, producers are building their commercial programs on the back of Anderson females. Scott has traveled to Ontario and stood in pastures where foundation cows trace directly back to his sales. “It makes you proud,” he says. “To know those cattle are working for people, that they’ve built their herds on them, and done so by trusting our program.”

Off the farm and outside of the auction markets, Scott is also a respected cattle judge. Over the years, he’s evaluated 4-H projects, pen shows, and commercial competitions across the prairies. It’s another way of giving back to the industry that shaped him — and of staying sharp. “Judging keeps your eye tuned,” he says. “You see what’s out there, how people are breeding, and it makes you better.

I absolutely love the challenge. I will do everything in my power to make the time to judge a 4-H show or event anywhere if I’m asked.” And he gives back to 4-H in another way, too. For the last 5 years, Scott has sponsored the local 4-H clubs in the areas where he purchases the bulk of his heifers. This spring, he presented nine custom-made “Anderson Bred Heifer” 4-H buckles to the winner of the Grand Champion yearling heifer. “It’s just giving back to a program that gave so much to me. 4-H wasn’t just about showing cattle, but public speaking and life lessons; even those highway cleanups — it moulded me.”

To this day, family remains at the center of it all. Gary and Faye have retired, but still enjoy their time out at the farm. Scott and his partner, Patti, have blended their families, raising four young adults together. His sons remain closely tied to the cattle business, a source of pride and continuity for a man whose own journey began as a boy at his parents’ production sales.

Eli, Scott’s youngest, currently lives at the original Sunset Acres Farmstead with his fiancée, Annika. He works full-time on the farm, with ambitions like those of his fathers. “I’m proud of the legacy that my



Ethan Anderson with a REMAX sale sign



from Left to Right: (Back row is Ethan, Scott, and Eli Anderson)
(Front row is Patti Cummins, Brynn Smith and Presley Smith)



Eli and his Fiancee, Annika, who currently live at Sunset Acres.

grandparents and Dad have created and look forward to the future of this program,” Eli says. Ethan, his oldest son, sells real estate for Remax in Innisfail and helps out when he can. Presley, Patti’s eldest daughter, is embarking this fall on her Physiotherapy Degree at the University of Winchester in England. Brynn, Patti’s youngest, will graduate next spring with a double major in Water & Land Reclamation from Olds College. She is also the captain of Olds College Broncos Soccer Team.

But that’s far from the end of the family for Scott. The crew that works for him really just works “with him” and has become a huge part. Darryl Dewar comes from Atwood, Ontario has been a fixture for 14 years. He and his wife Lisa and their two kids, Emmett and Kaylee are deeply rooted in the Anderson family and the local community. Levi Hofer

lives in the older house in Scott’s yard and has also spent the past 14 years working beside them. Dean Scheibner from Sundre has spent parts of the last 26 years working alongside. “The truth is that I couldn’t do it without all of them. Unfortunately... I think they know that!” Scott said laughingly.

Scott sums it up, “Every year we strive to make the program better. Even just subtle little changes. We want to be known for selling the best commercial-bred heifers in North America. And I acknowledge those are lofty expectations because there are other fantastic programs out there.”

From the Quonset barn of his childhood to a nationally recognized commercial heifer program, Scott Anderson has stayed true to a simple philosophy: build with quality, keep them quiet and always treat people properly.

