



**Wilken Angus Ranch,**  
18867 Happy Hill Rd.,  
Meadow, SD 57644

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FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
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RAPID CITY, SD  
PERMIT 618



## Save the Date for our 2018 Fall Sale

Friday, Nov. 30, 2018  
1 p.m., MT | Faith, SD



For some time, I have had wanted to keep in touch with our friends and customers, to highlight our customer's operations, and to let you know of happenings around here. But, as some of you may know, sometimes wanting to do something and getting it done are two different things. Well, here it goes.

Summer has a way of going way too fast with working and getting cattle out to pasture, Aling, and haying. Next thing you know summer is almost over, kids are headed back to school, and we are thinking about giving fall shots and starting to haul hay. We all have much to thank the Lord for, as we have grass for the cattle and hay to haul.

The cattle business appears to be on a firm foundation with a growing economy in the USA. Hopes of trade barriers coming down will give people worldwide a chance to enjoy great-tasting American beef, along with reasonable corn prices, all of which points to a good calf and feeder cattle market.

We continue to strive to equip our customers with the most profitable seed stock in the industry. One exciting change is the implementation of selling 18-month-old bulls exclusively. Therefore, we will not have a spring sale and instead will sell all of our bulls the day after Thanksgiving, as coming two-year-old bulls. These coming two-year-old bulls will provide extra hardiness, thus servicing more cows over their lifetime, especially in the first year. Our customers have had fewer problems with the two-year-old bulls than yearling bulls. They also provide a clearer picture of the genetics you are purchasing. Just like when you choose replacement heifers, most often the longer you wait to make your selections, the better idea you have of their potential. The same is true when selecting bulls.

We sold our yearling bulls in April and now will be selling 80 coming two-year-old (mainly April-born calves) in November, with no sale in spring 2019.

We hope everything is going well at your outfit, and look forward to visiting with you this fall. Thanks for taking the time read our letter. We are continuing to do our best to be your seed stock provider.

*Gary Wilken*

Gary Wilken

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6



# Save the Date for our Fall Production Sale!

Friday, November 30, 2018

1 p.m MT | Faith Livestock Commission Co., Faith, SD



**INSIDE:**

- Exciting changes for Wilken Angus
- News from Happy Hill
- Featured Customers: Jeff & Shelane Graham

## THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING 2018 SPRING SALE CUSTOMERS!

Brian Alley  
Eric and Mindy Arneson  
Clarence Archibald & Sons  
Jim & Linda Bird  
Tom and Lela Bowen  
Tracy & Tammy Buer  
Reed & Amber Cammack  
Rodney & Elva Belle Carr  
Randy Clark  
Jim & Linda Collins  
Robert Compton  
Dale Christianson  
Doug and Mason Dietterle  
Bill Gaskill  
Rex & Shirley Gilles  
Jeff & Shelane Graham  
Don and Vicki Herman  
Greg & Lisa Hofer  
Rick Holzkamm  
Lance & Jaylea Hourigan  
Richard & Gene Hudson  
Dwight & Suzanne Husted  
Curtis and Roxanne Johnson  
Martin & Arlene Ketelson  
Tim and Laurie Kinsley  
Ron & Amie Linn  
Peggy Mastel  
Aaron McKnight  
Bryan Miedema  
Norman and Shelby Miles  
Arlie and Gretchen Radway  
Joe Schoenfelder  
Tom & Lynette Schulz  
Cal and Kathy Stirling  
Don and Rhonda Tomac  
James Whitcher  
Jared & Carla Wiebe  
Jim & Sharon Wright

## View from Happy Hill

By Lori Wilken

Often times when I am ordering something on the phone and they request my address, I reply “18867 Happy Hill Rd.” They laugh and ask if we are always happy or they say, “That must be a nice place to live.”

Here on Happy Hill Rd., we are NOT always happy, but it certainly is a great place to live. In life, our happy places are most often special not because of the location, but because of the people we are blessed to live and work with.

One evening this summer, while in the middle of our AIing projects, we took the time to ask ourselves and share with each other three things that we were thankful for that day. One common “thanks” was for the opportunity we have to work together as a family. Of course, it is not always perfect but we are so glad to be able to do this work and lifestyle as a family. Katie completed her first year of teaching and we are glad she chose to come home to be a part of our crew this summer, along with Susan, Lindsey, Josh, and Seth.

Even the kids realize God’s blessings of timely rains and an abundant hay crop. Everyone was a part of the haying process with Josh learning to rake this summer, and the girls plugging in wherever needed.

There were a few more needs this summer, since Gary started out the summer by breaking his arm. He was like most guys, frustrated at not being able to do what he normally does; but with Uncle Wade and the kids, things went pretty well.

Summer is almost gone with fall schedules now upon us. We are grateful for our friends and customers and think of you all, hoping that your summer is closing out well. Thanks for taking a quick break for a View from Happy Hill.

*Lori Wilken*

Lori Wilken



## CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

### Jeff & Shelane Graham

By Monica Coyle

Ranching as a family is more than a way of life at the Graham Ranch. It’s a dream fulfilled, one that began back in 1993, when Jeff and Shelane were first married. It’s a family heritage, rich in history and love for the land. It’s also an opportunity to grow together as a family through the joys and struggles of ranch life.

Both Jeff and Shelane grew up in ranching, and have known since they were really young that it’s something they wanted to do. In 1997, the opportunity came. The Grahams moved to Hereford, South Dakota, on the original homestead, which was quite meaningful as Shelane was the fifth generation to ranch on those 80 acres.

Today, ranching is definitely a family affair, as their three children, Jade (19), Sanden (16), and Sage (13) play integral roles in day-to-day operations. Shelane says that it can be a large responsibility for the two of them, but that their kids are a huge asset.

Over the years, they’ve grown as a family, especially through the challenges they’ve experienced. Having recently gone through a couple of natural disasters, and managing post-traumatic stress in differing ways, they’ve come to rely more on God. They say that without their faith in God, they don’t know where they’d be.

After Storm Atlas, the Grahams decided to try the Wilken bulls, which had impressed both of them. Shelane appreciates the family aspect, having grown up with five sisters and raised to go out and do the job at hand. She says, “After we went to that first bull sale, it was really a blessing to have Gary share a bit of a testimony and a verse and pray before. After all the yucky, I feel that the Lord has blessed us.”

They find the Wilken Angus bulls to provide a lot of benefit, especially with calving ease. They consider it a huge help not having to worry about the heifers having calving problems. Not only that, but they’ve seen other benefits in their herd, including exceptional growth and a gentle disposition.

If they could give advice to young ranching families, they say to surround yourself with good mentors. “Get into a good church. And forgive each other a lot- especially after working cows!” Having recently celebrated 25 years of marriage, the Grahams are grateful for the chance to do what they love, and do that together.

## 2018 Fall Sale Herd Sires



K C F Bennett Absolute



Styles Cash R400



S A V Resource 1441



G A R Composure



S A V Bismarck 5682



## SIRE SPOTLIGHT

S A V RESOURCE 1441

This 2018 Herd Sire offers elite performance with high quality functional phenotype. He consistently adds muscle, fleshing ability, and pounds in the right package. Resource daughters are making ideal brood cows with impeccable udders. Look for the S A V Resource sons in our Black Angus Friday Fall Sale, this November 30!