

**Jim Opperman**  
**At-Large**

**History of your operation/family and involvement with the Maine-Anjou breed:**

Jim Opperman started breeding Maine-Anjou cattle in 1980 by breeding their family's cross-bred cows to leading AI sires. Since breeding Maine-Anjou cattle, Opperman has promoted them by testing his bulls in the Iowa Cattlemen's' Bull Test, selling breeding cattle at the Iowa Beef Expo and participating in national steer and bull trials.

**What do you see as the strengths of the Maine-Anjou breed and how can those strengths best be used in today's beef industry?**

Opperman feels that one of the biggest strengths of the Maine-Anjou breed is docility. A popular comment from bull customers is that they like the disposition of the bulls, which equates to satisfied, repeat customers. The docility in our females makes for excellent mothering ability, which raises fast gaining, heavy calves at weaning time. More producers are using Maine-Anjou genetics due to our cows longevity and the easy going, good doing bulls.

**What vision for the future do you hold from the Maine-Anjou breed and what steps are necessary to realize that vision?**

Opperman looks for the Maine-Anjou breed to be accepted nationally by commercial cattlemen for calving ease, brood-cow longevity and feeder calves excelling in the feed yard. Opperman feels we can accomplish this by producing and promoting our calving ease sires that excel with carcass merits through DNA selection.

**What does your present operation do to promote Maine-Anjou genetics, whether it is locally, state, regional or national?**

Opperman promotes Maine-Anjou genetics through national bull and steer trials, exhibiting breeding stock at national and state shows and selling breeding stock at the state and local level. He has served as treasurer of the Iowa Maine-Anjou board for the past three years and serves as the Maine-Anjou sale manager at the Iowa Beef Expo.