



**Van Dyke Angus Ranch**  
**Cattleman's Advantage**  
*Bull Sale*  
**February 20, 2025**  
12:30 pm MST • Manhattan, Montana

**Selling 130 Yearling & 24 Coming Two Year Old Angus Bulls**

*50 bred heifers from Moore Livestock  
Due to calve May 12 to June 15. Bred to VDAR bulls.*

**Trust & Tradition:  
VDAR & the Betz Family Establish Generations of Genetics**

*by Sherry Wulff*

**A man of his word ... "is a REALLY big deal!"**

For nearly 30 years, Bernard Betz and family have been buying Van Dyke Angus bulls...and the rest, as they say, is history. Their long-standing relationship developed early on when something unforeseen happened to one of the first bulls Bernard purchased, and Lee Van Dyke stood behind his word in guaranteeing VDAR bulls for one full year. It turns out, it was also the first bull that Lee had to stand behind in their operation.

Bernard's son, Wade, shared recently that "VDAR's attention to how they ran their business went a long way in forging their relationship. To a guy like my dad, if you say you're gonna do it, you just do it. Van Dyke Angus honors their agreement and that guarantee is a REALLY big deal." Wade continued, "One of the things I've always appreciated about them is no questions asked, no big production, just make it right. The simplicity of that and the history of that is what makes the difference." This created such a loyalty that the Betz family has never bought bulls from anyone else. Their entire cowherd is sired by VDAR bulls, which has also given them outstanding performance in many ways.

**The Van Dyke Difference ...  
"Your bulls WORK for us!"**

In highlighting what VDAR bulls have done for their operation, Wade emphasized that "it's given us the ability to have a late calving date in mid-April but still wean at close to 600 lbs. when we sell at the end of October. Not a lot of time for that calf to get there!" He continues, "We focus on lighter birth weight bulls and when a 75 pound calf born in a snow storm in April can reach 575 pounds by weaning in October,

that speaks to the performance of the calf." He shared those calves have been doing this consistently for many years and it's not uncommon that the top 100

calves weigh 600 pounds. The fact those calves perform at that level is not just because they are sired by VDAR bulls but also because, for generations, their dams have been as well. Wade mentioned that the babies are also born lighter due to VDAR cattle having a shorter gestation, and when still making that great weaning weight, it speaks to the performance of the genetics. They sell their calves in Belle Fourche, SD, and have a "contingent of loyal buyers who know the reputation of the cattle and how they perform. That short calving window, that one economic factor and particular trait, is hard to measure but its reality."

Another valuable trait the Betz family appreciates about the VDAR cattle is their disposition and mothering instincts such as having a calf and getting up on a cold day and taking care of that baby. As Wade emphasized, "A light, lively calf that gets up and sucks and the mom licks and cares for it....boom, you're off and running! That measurement also doesn't exist but is critical. You need a live calf first and one that wants to live!"

Longevity is also key in the Van Dyke operation and Tom Wulff with VDAR believes it's the most important economic factor we offer the commercial





Great Bulls can only come from Great Cows

VDAR.com

Request your catalog!  
Sherry Wulff  
406-580-4646 or  
iwillrejoice2014@gmail.com



He Sells!

**VDAR SHADOW 2004** 20991809  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+9 -2.0 +48 +78 -.14 +27 +50 +68**  
sire N Bar Shadow X4124 MGS V D A R Cedar Wind 8111



He Sells!

**VDAR BLACK MASS 2214** 20963132  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+9 +0.4 +52 +92 +.83 +25 +51 +86**  
sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 MGS V D A R Sonny Boy 1194



He Sells!

**VDAR TWENTY TWENTY 2524** 20960769  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+2 +3.0 +44 +83 +.69 +27 +38 +77**  
sire VDAR Twenty Twenty 2020 MGS HA Windfall 6011



He Sells!

**VDAR KAWLIGA 1124** 20900025  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+7 -0.4 +73 +119 +1.01 +33 +86 +82**  
sire VDAR Kawliga 2141 MGS Sitz Resilient 10208



He Sells!

**VDAR COALITION 1174** 20907041  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+15 -1.3 +52 +96 +1.51 +32 +62 +67**  
sire U-2 Coalition 206C MGS V D A R Cedar Wind 5126



He Sells!

**VDAR XXP 1334** 20900040  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+0 +4.0 +76 +131 +1.36 +28 +62 +103**  
sire VDAR 4321 XXP 5629 MGS V D A R Stout 6287



He Sells!

**VDAR COALITION 1114** 20900024  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+11 +0.4 +69 +124 +1.64 +29 +71 +80**  
sire U-2 Coalition 206C MGS Koupal Juneau 797



He Sells!

**VDAR WINDY 1294** 20951512  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+11 +0.6 +65 +113 +1.85 +22 +58 +68**  
sire CFF 79 Windy 8423 MGS V D A R Hero 7072



He Sells!

**VDAR BLACK MASS 1614** 20937944  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+12 -1.6 +55 +86 +1.41 +33 +70 +54**  
sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 MGS V D A R Cedar Wind 5126



He Sells!

**VDAR BLACK MASS 2054** 20963109  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+8 +0.2 +51 +85 +1.42 +24 +53 +47**  
sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 MGS VDAR Gallatin 7586



He Sells!

**VDAR TWENTY TWENTY 2074** 20960754  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+4 +2.8 +71 +122 +.98 +29 +62 +88**  
sire VDAR Twenty Twenty 2020 MGS VDAR Gallatin 7586



He Sells!

**VDAR SONNY BOY 2324** 20960759  
CED BW WW YW SC Milk SW SF  
**+9 +1.1 +60 +108 +.14 +31 +62 +102**  
sire V D A R Sonny Boy 1194 MGS DFA Hero 6017

Montana's Original Maternal Herd!

Photo credit:  
Sheila Betz



cattleman. This has definitely carried over into the Betz ranch as Wade shared that during a recent branding, there was a cow who looked kind of old and they realized she was 16! Amazingly enough, she had run all those years in broken country on the divide as the ranch lies between Clear Creek and Crazy Woman in high, hard grass country, and she had reliably produced a calf year after year. He remarked that most of those years, you couldn't pick her out as an older cow!

### **A cowboy at heart... and still in the saddle at 85 years young!**

Bernard Betz from Clearmont, WY, truly exemplifies the Western way of life through and through. His family lived on the homestead before, during and after the Great Depression, enduring many adverse conditions of the time. His cowboy ways came early in life as he started breaking broncs on their ranch, and when he was in 8th grade, while working for a neighbor raking hay, part of his tasks involved harnessing and driving draft horses since tractors weren't part of the operation.

At the tender age of 15, he struck out on his own, relying on the skills he'd learned with horses and cattle to that point in life and became a full-time working cowboy. Over time, he also became an accomplished team roper and tie-down roper, competing in the PRCA (Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association) and later being inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2018. Back in 1969, his traveling days ended when he married his wife, Linda, and together they became an unstoppable team in developing the successful operation they share today.



### **From humble beginnings, a legacy is built.**

When Bernard and Linda were married, the ranch of his youth was a rough camp, with no running water or electricity. Wade stated that his mom made a lot of sacrifices back then and worked very hard alongside her husband. No running water on the ranch would make it hard for a woman to carry out the daily duties of running a household. As Wade shares, "They've had quite a partnership that makes the whole thing roll and have truly worked together to make the ranch what it is today." In the early years, the winter weather was often challenging as wind and snow would regularly close the county road and the roads to the pasture. In order to feed the cattle, Bernard would often have to open several miles of snow drifted roads first.

Wade also attributes his mom's incredible determination in making things run smoothly, saying "she is the quintessential ranch wife - making breakfast, leaves with you and rides all day on the ranch, makes supper, does the books and is a do-it-all sort of person, and acts like that's just the way the day should go." Over time, the hard-working couple was given an opportunity to buy into the ranch and through their dedication, they turned this beautiful, remote location into a thriving operation where they've built a legacy for their family. They have three children, Sheila, Wade, and his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Will and Sarah, and youngest son, Ben, and his wife, Kelly, and their children, Grady and June. Wade and Ben are the 4th generation to make a living on their beloved Tick Ridge Ranch near Clearmont.

Finally, when two historic operations come together to provide the best product they possibly can, great things happen and it's a match made in ranch heaven! The teamwork and commitment of VDAR with the Betz family operation goes both ways and the benefits and blessings extend far and wide... including to their customers, to those who eat beef across America, and to the families on these ranches who are living and loving a life they created and leaving a legacy that will endure for generations.

*The Moore Family  
Sue, Katya, Sanford,  
Steve & Rachel*



### **Special Feature**

We are pleased to welcome back Moore Livestock of Two Dot, MT as they join us in selling 50 Angus bred heifers due to calve May 12 - June 15, bred to VDAR bulls

**Tom Wulff**  
406.580.1606  
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**Charles Pera**  
406.922.7077

**Lee Van Dyke**  
406.579.2585  
lvandyke@vdar.com

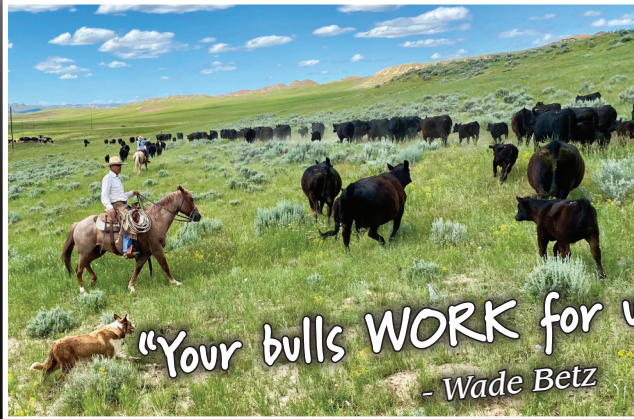
**Tim Crabtree**  
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**VDAR.com**

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12393 Frontage Road  
Manhattan, MT 59741



*"Your bulls WORK for us."*  
- Wade Betz

## **INSIDE THIS EDITION**

VDAR bulls help decades-long Wyoming customers, the Betz Family, establish generations of genetics!



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