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OF SALACOA 23Y69



Patton of Brinks 30T22 x SVF Ms 23M28

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FAT
4	1.9	33	53	8	25	7.9	0.9	0.46	0.11	-0.014

STONEWALL

OF RRR 222W6



Csonka of Brinks 30R4 x Ms Brinks Lombardi 222S20

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FAT
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This month's focus is on the Braford breed. Although I am not as familiar with the Braford breed as I am with some of the other breeds, I recognize the tremendous value of the cross of Brahman and Hereford breeds and the ability of breeders to decide the right percentages of each breed for their particular environment (within 5% or so).



10

Optimism is the standard attitude beef producers everywhere need to have these days. It is time to be excited and take full advantage of the opportunities in the industry we all know and are passionate about. Cattlemen and women today are more efficient, resilient, and stronger than ever and we believe that Braford is the breed that represents them today.



12

Injury caused by dystocia causes up to 80% of perinatal calf losses and is most common in first calf heifers. Excessive calf size can result in malpresentation due to the calf not being able to properly position itself in the birth canal or total fetopelvic disproportion requiring C-section delivery.



14

In a previous article, Investment Per Cow Unit was referenced as a major financial consideration for "ranchers / land investors" since land is likely the major item on the balance sheet. This article is intended to address; first, an accurate evaluation of the cow unit or animal unit capacity of a given property, and second, alternatives to adjust or increase the cow unit capacity/investment per cow unit of a property. Remember also that these discussions relate to properties with the highest and best use being a year around cow-calf operation.



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Have You Heard.... the Truth

Spring is well upon us and all circuits are "on go" in the Beef cattle business. Record prices are being reached in all market sectors across the country. With that said, weather concerns in some regions still have suppressed the rebuild of the cow herd. Rightfully so, ranchers are leery to any signs of drought due to the extreme conditions they experienced in 2011 and 2012. Still, with low supplies and hard to find replacements, prices for quality open, bred and first calf heifer pairs are redeeming very rewarding values when offered.



This issue of The Ear features the Braford breed of cattle. In the replacement world, the Braford cow is known as "The Queen" of the South. For decades, every time there has been a replacement female sale, Braford females have always tendered prices at the top of the day's market. Research backs up that the F-1 Braford female is one of the most efficient, profitable cows used in the cattle business in many environments.

Registered Braford breeders across the United States have done a nice job stabilizing the unique genetics found in crossing Brahman x Hereford. Because of this, performance tested Braford bulls have seen a tremendous upswing in demand and value due to the desire to put them back on F-1 Braford, Brangus, Santa Gertrudis and Beefmaster type females. By doing this, they are producing a very sought after replacement heifer calf.

I can't tell you how many herds of cattle I have visited that are running Bos indicus breeds of bulls back on their Bos indicus cows to increase the value of the heifer calves, that in the past have been using primarily a terminal sire. They are finding that if they select and purchase Bos indicus breeds of bulls that are of a proven genetic blend of growth, maternal and carcass traits, the steer calves produced compare in market weight and price to that of terminal sires, and the rewards of dividend on the replacement heifer calves are significantly higher compared to the terminal feeder heifer contemporaries.

I hear this statement every day from ranchers across the country. "This is the best times we have ever seen in the cattle business". God willing and with the blessing of rain, the outlook is very promising for many years to come. I urge you to plan your breeding program around both market accepted steers and capitalize on the ever increasing demand for Bos indicus influence replacement females. **Doing both is where the money is!!!**

We look forward to serving you.

Richard Hood

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158 Brangus & Ultrablack Bulls **\$5538**



TJM FINAL CUT 302A: Cavender Brangus and Schmidt Farms teamed up to purchase this multi-dimensional herd sire prospect for \$40,000.



JAK DIMENSION 98A: Semex Beef purchased this moderate framed, deep ribbed Dimension son for \$20,000.



TJM FINAL CUT 535A: Clover Ranch purchased this extremely thick, long sided, eye appealing, herd sire prospect for \$16,000.



SCC LANDAU 331A4: Longtime GENETRUST customers Mark, Will and Matt Barnett and family in Clarksville, TN purchased this lot for \$15,500 for 2/3 interest and possession.



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BRAFORD CATTLE

COMBINING TWO BREEDS TO CREATE A THIRD

THE SCIENCE OF BOS INDICUS

featuring Dr. Joe Paschal
Professor & Livestock Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Corpus Christi, Texas



This month's focus is on the Braford breed. Although I am not as familiar with the Braford breed as I am with some of the other breeds, I recognize the tremendous value of the cross of Brahman and Hereford breeds and the ability of breeders to decide the right percentages of each breed for their particular environment (within 5% or so).

In paraphrasing the history of the breed (according to the United Braford Breeders website (www.brafords.org)) Alto Adams, Jr. working with a base herd of Brahman cows, began using Hereford bulls on his St. Lucie county, Florida ranch in 1947. The resulting steer and heifer calves were outstanding, but the Hereford bulls required to produce those calves had some problems due to their lack of adaptability to the tropical environment. Mr. Adams began experimenting with various percentages of Brahman-Hereford crossbred bulls. Eventually he identified the Braford bulls that were producing the calves that met his needs and market demands and he used these bulls and their offspring to form what is recognized as the Foundation Herd of the Braford breed in the United States.

By basing bull selection on weaning and yearling weights and allowing natural selection to eliminate calving problems, Adams Ranch Brafords improved through the years to the point that Adams Ranch began to think of breed development and recognition. Initially the International Braford Association (IBA) was chartered in 1969 to begin registering Brafords. The IBA operated an office in Fort Pierce, Florida until moving its headquarters to Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1991. The United Braford Breeders association was formed in 1994. Only 3/8 Brahman – 5/8 Hereford cattle (within the 5% noted above) are considered purebred. For more information about the history of the breed, its growth and general information I would recommend their website. Grace Parker is their Executive Director.

In early animal breeding research in the South and Gulf Coast, the most common crossbred animal evaluated was the Brahman – Hereford and was usually compared to their parental breeds. There was some research evaluating the backcrosses (3/4 Brahman – 1/4 Hereford and 1/4 Brahman – 3/4 Hereford) and the F2 (crosses of similar F1s), most of this was studying the effects of heterosis or hybrid vigor of the various combinations on weaning and carcass traits and later on reproduction. Much of the same type of research was done with Angus which led to the formation of the Brangus. While working on a PhD as a graduate student at Texas A&M I remember reviewing much of this research from





the 1950s, 60s and 70s. My own dissertation was based on the calving, growth and carcass results of crossing Angus and five *Bos indicus* breeds (American Gray and Red Brahman plus Gir, Nelore and Indu-Brazil) on Hereford cows in a research program designed and conducted by Dr. Jim Sanders. Currently Angus is being used in this type of research since they grade better than either Hereford or Brahman and represent a significant percentage of the genetics of both the cows and the bulls in the area (for better or worse adaptively speaking). The results of that research showed that there were differences in the breeds in the creation of those Braford calves that caused differences in their performance as well as the performance of their offspring.

In developing the Braford breed it is interesting to note that creating a breed was not the objective of Mr. Adams, but to find a cross that was reproducible and adapted that would produce marketable steers and heifers. This was well after many of the other American or Eared breeds had been developed and all of them tended to follow the same pattern. It was only later that they went back to look to see what they might actually be made of – for some (except Brangus) it is most likely an estimate rather than an accurate figure.

Closer to home, Brahmans and Herefords were combined on the McFaddin Ranch, just south of Victoria, Texas and about 100 miles southeast of San Antonio. The ranch was established in 1877 by James A. McFaddin. In 1893 he saw his first Brahman bull at the Chicago Fair where it was on exhibition principally as an exotic curiosity. McFaddin was impressed by the bull's ability to handle the heat in Chicago that he decided it had to be right for South Texas. He sold his interest in the Spindletop oil field before the great historic gusher came in, and with the money imported a herd of Brahmans, the one of the first in Texas, and bought the land on which to raise them. Early in this century, McFaddin's son

Al and grandson C. K. McCan, who operated the ranch from 1924 until his death in 1974, began experimenting with Hereford-Brahman crosses to improve the quality of the beef. They eventually developed the Victoria (also called the Victorian or McFaddin Hereford) breed, less familiar than the other breeds (Santa Gertrudis and Beefmaster) developed in this area. Kerry McCan continues to operate the ranch. Most of these cattle appear to be multigenerational F1 crosses but certainly could be a higher percentage of one breed or the other depending on the desire of the owner and environment in which the cattle are being raised.

Most of my experience with Braford cattle has been in the form of an F1, and over the past few years I have certainly sung their praises; however you either have to create them or buy them and either way it can be an expensive proposition. Buying them means you have to pay for someone else's costs of having a herd of Brahman or Hereford cows and using a Hereford or Brahman bull. Regardless of how much I like them not all the F1 females produced are exactly what you want nor are they often uniform in color (or size). Often when you buy them they are already shaped up by color and size and you should expect to pay for it. The big drawback on the F1 is that they don't reproduce themselves. Using an F1 bull on these F1 females' produces what is called an F2 generation (F1 x F1) and you get a reduction in hybrid vigor for growth and maternal ability of 50%, which doesn't decline further if you continue to create F3 by mating F2s.

Not to take away from the efforts of my friends at the ABBA and their tremendous F1 program, and I know that seems a little complicated, but the point is that it takes two breeds to create the F1. There are pluses and minuses involved with pure- or straight breeding (no heterosis, severe discounts for male calves of some breeds). In addition the crossbred males may have reduced value (and usually do) compared to the crossbred females (especially Brahman-Hereford F1s). To get around these problems, the Braford breed settled on a percentage so that they could produce their own replacements, have a reduction in hybrid vigor of the crosses similar to the F2 (about 47%), and still have cattle (both females as well as males) that would not take severe market discounts when sold as feeders rather than replacements based on appearance. I think that if you take a look at the pictures of the Braford cattle you would agree that they would have a place in many programs. ♦





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1045



Optimism...

As the United Braford Breeders, we are excited and are taking advantage of these opportunities. We want commercial producers everywhere to know the benefits Braford genetics will bring to their herds. As an association, we have seen an increase in many facets this New Year that have been a positive reinforcement of what we knew was coming. There are obvious contributing factors for the current status: first and the biggest is the current cattle market. Oklahoma State University Extension estimates that 1.4 million head of cattle left the cow herd between 2004 and 2011, some because of increased grain prices due to inflation, and what effected many more, drought. It has taken a few years for that loss to hit full effect in the markets, but that is what we are seeing now, an estimated shortage in supply. The second reason we believe the Braford Industry is very strong is that more and more cattlemen and women across the country realize and are hungry for the qualities that the Braford breed offers to their herds. Maybe they have bred only Bos Taurus influenced breeds for a number of years and need to bring back the hybrid vigor and maternal attributes Braford cattle are golden for. Or maybe they have had to draw back on their ranch budgets and are looking for ways to maximize profits and want the productive longevity and added pounds per calf Braford genetics will bring to the herd. Whatever the reason may be, as ambassadors, members, and breeders, we know that the product we are marketing is superior.

Through a variety of Braford shows, trade shows, sales, and many other functions, we have seen one common thread over the past year, a demand for growth. As we look ahead, we are excited to announce our largest crop with nearly 100 Braford bulls to date in our Bull Development and Marketing Program. You all as readers of The Ear will have first opportunity to see updates on these high performing bulls to be marketed at the Advancing the Braford Breed Sale on October 2nd in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The truth is, We believe this is the best time to be in the business of producing the world's most wholesome protein source, and we encourage producers everywhere to look to the breed that proves to encompass all the qualities that producers need to be successful for now, and many years to come. For more information on upcoming events, contact the UBB today! Braford.org

Grace Parker
Executive Director

UBB United Braford Breeders

Herd Sires for Everyone!

crochet Game Changer_{23Y77}



Patton of Brinks 30T22 x SVF Lead Gun 23 T721 | R10202409 | Semen \$40/Straw

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FAT
-4	4.2	41	63	10	30	5.4	0.8	0.74	0.09	-0.014
Top 3	Top 10		Top 10		Top 20		Top 20	Top 2	Top 25	Top 2

He records top 2% REA, 3% WW, 10% YW, 15% SC and 20% IMF EPDs. He is sired by Patton and his dam, 23 T721, presents impressively balanced and powerful EPD tabulations. We have 8 bulls and 4 heifers on the ground out of him. The bulls have an average birth weight of 78.5lbs and heifers 78lbs. T721 records top 3% YW and REA, 4% WW, 5% IMF and top 10% SC EPDs while recording near breed average BW. She has 17 ET calves on the ground today at SVF, sired by Patton and Stonewall. Out of 17 calves, there are 17 keepers and several outstanding prospects. She is averaging 17 good embryos per flush and she stuck AI first service and sold to Valusek-Payne Show Cattle in the IVCAP Sale in Houston in 2013 for \$18,500. That is fertility, growth and earning power in one package!

crochet Prime Design_{23Y2}



Southern GT Special Force 17 x TF Ms 23R | UB10194064 | Semen \$40/Straw

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FAT
4	1.4	37	66	10	29	7.1		0.35	0.17	0.01
	Top 10		Top 5		Top 25				Top 10	

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Does Supplemental Feeding to Pregnant Heifers Affect Dystocia?

By Jackie Nix, Animal Nutritionist, Ridley Block Operations



Injury caused by dystocia causes up to 80% of perinatal calf losses and is most common in first calf heifers. Excessive calf size can result in malpresentation due to the calf not being able to properly position itself in the birth canal or total fetopelvic disproportion requiring C-section delivery.

Calf size is a function of both genetics and maternal environment. We know that genetics plays a large role in calf size and thus use “calving ease” bulls to help reduce this risk, but what about nutrition of the dam? How many of you have heard “Don’t feed heifers during late pregnancy or you’ll have to pull calves” or “Feeding protein will cause monster calves”? Does supplemental feeding of heifers contribute to excessive fetal growth?

Over the last four decades, results are mixed when it comes to the question of prepartum diet and birth weight. Many studies found absolutely no correlation between prepartum diet and birth weight. Others found that nutrient intake during gestation did significantly increase birth weight. However, when researchers tracked both birth weight and dystocia scores, it was found that birth weight increased without affecting incidence of dystocia. In a study conducted at three land grant universities in three different states replicated over 3 years, the effects of body condition score on heifer reproductive performance was studied. They found that increasing heifer BCS score at calving resulted in increased calf birth weights but without an increase in dystocia (See Table 1). So this means we can feed our heifers to hit a target BCS of 5 or 6 without worry of increased dystocia. The fact that the adjusted weaning weights on these calves were not statistically significant lends to the theory that body energy stores at calving don’t affect milk production, but rather that it is dictated by feed intake during lactation. So the moral to this story is that even if your heifers give birth as a BCS 4, you can feed them sufficiently to have their calves catch up with calves from contemporaries that calved at a higher BCS.

But here’s why you definitely ***DO*** want to supplement in late pregnancy, heifers that calve in better body condition get pregnant sooner and ultimately have greater lifetime productivity (and profitability!). The heifers scoring a BCS of 5 or 6 at calving were documented to get pregnant sooner and overall more of them were pregnant at the end of the breeding season than those calving at BCS 4 (See Table 2). This result held true despite the fact that all groups were fed for weight gain during the postpartum period (as evidenced by there being no statistical difference in weaning weights). The take away is that even with extra feed in the postpartum period, the heifer can’t eat enough to fully replenish her energy reserves to get pregnant again quickly. Thus to keep heifers on schedule to calve with the rest of the herd in the future, we need to manage their prepartum diet to have them calving as a BCS 5 or 6.

In summary, heifer nutrition and body condition at first calving is critical for future productivity. We need to target our heifers to calve at a BCS of 5 or 6 for optimum rebreeding. CRYSTALYX® BRAND SUPPLEMENTS can help you achieve this goal with a wide variety of supplements, including the CRYSTALYX® Breed-Up® Supplements (available in 17%, 20% and 28% protein formulas). They are designed for pre-calving through breeding. They are fortified at 200% of NRC recommended levels of copper and zinc, including highly available, organic forms of copper, zinc, manganese and cobalt. Visit www.crystalyx.com to learn more about these products or to download our Body Condition Score app for your smart phone. This useful tool can help you monitor BCS not only in your heifers but in the entire herd. ♦

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Table 1. Effect of Heifer Body Condition score at birth on calf birth weight, dystocia score and subsequent weaning weight.

Body Condition Score at calving	Number in group	Heifer body weight at calving (lbs)	Birth weight (lbs)	Dystocia score	205-d Weaning weight (lbs)
4	73	745 ^a	63.7 ^a	1.2	412
5	107	826 ^b	67.0 ^b	1.2	425
6	60	934 ^c	71.4 ^c	1.2	436

Different superscripts differ significantly (P<0.05)

Table 2. Percentage of heifers pregnant during a 60-day breeding season as affected by BCS at calving

Body Condition Score at calving	Number in group	% Pregnant by indicated days of breeding season		
		20	40	60
4	73	27%	43% ^a	56% ^a
5	107	35%	65% ^b	80% ^b
6	60	47%	90% ^c	96% ^c

Different superscripts differ significantly (P<0.05)

Tables adapted from: Spitzer, et. al. Reproductive Responses and Calf Birth and Weaning Weights as Affected by Body Condition at Parturition and Postpartum Weight Gain in Primiparous Beef Cows. J. Anim. Sci. 1995. 73:1251-1257

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Ranchland Investment Considerations - Investment Per Cow Unit - Part 2

\$ THE BOTTOM LINE \$
featuring Kenneth Wendland
He received a M.S. from NMSU and Ph.D. from TAMU with research in Ranch Economics, and has 40+ years experience in land investments, finance and ranch operations across Texas and other states.

THIS ARTICLE IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHICH ARE INTENDED TO STIMULATE THOUGHT AND ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF RANCH INVESTMENTS AND OPERATIONS.

In a previous article, Investment Per Cow Unit was referenced as a major financial consideration for “ranchers / land investors” since land is likely the major item on the balance sheet. This article is intended to address; first, an accurate evaluation of the cow unit or animal unit capacity of a given property, and second, alternatives to adjust or increase the cow unit capacity/investment per cow unit of a property. Remember also that these discussions relate to properties with the highest and best use being a year around cow-calf operation.

For definition purposes, “cow unit” as used in these articles, refers to the amount of forage (or acres to produce the forage) required to maintain one mature cow year around and considers that all calves are weaned at 6 to 7 months, shipped off of the property, and replacement females are purchased to replace culled cows and entered into the cow inventory prior to calving. The number of breeding bulls maintained is consistent with the number needed to successfully breed the number of cows on the property during the typical breeding season. The “cow unit” is a common reference of capacity in many ranching areas.

Many times the cow unit capacity of a given property is referred to as “owner rated”. This source of establishing capacity should be verified by analyzing previous years inventory numbers at a constant point in time, i.e. January 1, and adjust for raised replacement heifers, carry-over calves, etc. that would cause an adjustment in the “cow unit equivalent” capacity of a given property. Also, the amount of feed purchased, particularly hay or other roughage, should be considered. Ask if the property produced all of the roughage required to maintain the “cow units” or was considerable hay purchased. In some cases, there may be an economic advantage to purchase winter hay and maintain more cows year around, rather than raise all of the needed hay. The point of making these adjustments is to accurately establish the “cow unit” capacity of the land being analyzed based on a history of past forage production.

A more technical means of evaluating the carrying capacity of a given property, is to refer to the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Soils Maps (www.soilweb.com) for the property, or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which will rate the soils for the property as to their “animal unit month” (AUM) capacity. This rating process also considers all climate factors and management levels. “Animal Unit Month” is defined as the amount of forage needed by one mature 1,000 pound

cow and her suckling calf for one month (1.0 AUM). The generally accepted daily dry matter forage requirement for an animal unit is 26 lbs. This approach to determining “animal unit” capacity of a property adjusts for cow size, bulls, yearlings, etc., based on weight. For example, a 1,500 lb. cow will be rated at 1.5 AUE equivalent and a yearling replacement heifer weighing 700 lbs. will be rated at .7 AUE. This adjustment to AUE factors in the variance in daily dry matter requirements for various size/weight of cattle.

Cow Unit equivalent and AU equivalent for a given property will be near the same when the cow unit definition used above is applied. For cow-calf / yearling combination operations, the AU basis should always be used to establish carrying capacity of a property. Most important, whichever approach is used, it should be consistent and accurate to fairly evaluate and compare the carrying capacity of properties.

Don't overlook the forage consumed and animal unit equivalents taken by wild or exotic game. For example, these are the number of animals that equate to 1.0 animal unit: Elk = 1.5, Mule Deer = 4.5, Sheep = 5.0, Pronghorn Antelope = 6.0. The forage consumed by these animals can be very expensive when entered into the animal unit equation of a ranch if the hunting value of the game animals is not being used as a profitable enterprise. Some western ranches have significant reduced numbers of animal unit capacity due to large herds of Elk and Antelope, or in a few areas, Wild Horses. In other areas, wild hogs are becoming a major problem.

Several alternatives can be considered as to how to adjust or increase the carrying capacity of a given property and thus reduce the Investment Per Cow Unit, and improve the ‘bottom line’. Here are some thoughts: 1.) Can I increase forage production by increased fertilizer or other inputs and will the increased cost be profitable? 2.) Will a more intensive pasture rotation plan increase forage production sufficient to offset added labor? 3.) Maybe an improved livestock water plan or cross fencing will improve forage utilization and increase the capacity of the ranch? 4.) Should I evaluate the cow size of the herd – if I am maintaining 1300+ lb. cows, the property would support a greater number of 1000 to 1100 lb. cows, and would the increased cow numbers result in added income from more calves produced? 5.) Should I wean calves earlier, at 6 months old vs. 8 months or older, increase the cow units, raise a few more numbers but less pounds per head at a greater price per pound? 6.) Does this property have irrigation capabilities and would this be a profitable means of expanding the cow/animal units? 7.) Should I clear additional land and add improved pasture? Some of these changes are one year adjustments and others are longer term changes that need long range planning and evaluation.

Maybe some of the procedures and suggestions mentioned in this article will be helpful in accurately evaluating a property's cow unit/animal unit capacity, and in analyzing changes that could improve the ‘bottom line’. ♦



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website for forms, schedules, and all the latest information.

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Four States Fairgrounds, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Spring EPDs Now Available

Spring 2014 Expected Progeny Differences have been released and are available for viewing. Go to our website, brafords.org and look under the

“Genetics” tab for a listing of the Spring 2014 Sire Summary’s and EPD Distributions.

Braford Bull Field Day

GONZALES, TX - Hosted by The United Braford Breeders. You are invited to be our special guests and also have the first chance to view the bulls being developed for the Advancing the Breed Sale IV on October 2nd in Lake Charles, LA. Nearly 100 bulls will be available for viewing as well as an education day at Graham Land and Cattle Company in Gonzales, Texas.

Schedule:

9:00 a.m. - View group 3 bulls

9:45 a.m. - Tour Graham Feed Yard

11:30 a.m. - Lunch

12:15 p.m. - Special presentation

1:00 p.m. - View groups 1 and 2 bulls

3:00 p.m. - Dismissal

*tentative schedule

Accommodations:

Holiday Inn Express

Gonzales, TX

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Sleep Inn

Gonzales, TX

830-672-1888

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930-203-5110

Directions to Graham Land & Cattle Company:

3772 S Us Highway 183 Gonzales, TX 78629.

Go south on HWY 183 5.7 miles. Turn right at Graham Land and Cattle Company driveway and sign.

For questions on Field Day Contact 904-563-1816



27th Annual ABBA National F1 & TBA Brahman Female Sale

CALDWELL, TEXAS – The American Brahman Breeders Association and Texas Brahman Association held their 27th Annual National F-1 and Brahman Female Sale on March 22, 2014 in Caldwell, Texas. Continuously showing for a strong demand of the top genetics offered, each year this association-sponsored event creates an

opportunity for consigners to market their cattle. Marketing Brahman and Brahman influence cattle were not only seen during the sale, but also with the pre-sale viewing and steak dinner that was sponsored and prepared by Graham Land & Cattle Company.

The sale showcased 500 head of Golden Certified/Certified F-1's, F-1 Plus, Registered Brahman, Purebred Brahman females, as well as Registered Brahman and Hereford bulls. The sale averages are as follows:

56 F-1 Pairs:	\$3,069
10 F-1 Breds:	\$2,210
58 F-1 Exposed Females:	\$2,150
163 F-1 Open Females:	\$1,917
11 F-1 Plus:	\$1,868

40 Registered Brahman Females:

- Pairs average: \$3,600
- Breds average: \$2,817
- Open average: \$3,140

11 Purebred Brahman Females:

- Pairs average: \$2,875

- Breds average: \$2,000
- Open average: \$3,000

Registered Bulls:

- Brahman: \$7,000
- Hereford: \$5,050

Additionally, this year's sale was dedicated to Glen and Rosalie Richardson, longtime producers of the F-1 female and members of the ABBA F-1 Certification program. Along with grandson Clay, the couple operates a sixth generation ranch in the family name. ABBA's Vice President, J.D. Sartwelle, Jr. presented Glen and Rosalie an award for their many years of devotion and service to the industry.

Champion Pair, Exposed, and Open F-1 pens were awarded Saturday before the sale. Award results are as follows:

- Champion Pairs: John Malazzo Farms of Caldwell, Texas
- Champion Exposed Pen: John Malazzo Farms of Caldwell, Texas
- Champion Open Pen: Bonchasse Land & Cattle Co. LLC of Shreveport, Louisiana

Capital Farm Credit and Graham Land and Cattle Co. were the Corporate Sponsors of this years sale.

Gold sponsors included the following: Anderson Bean Boot Company, Broken Triangle Cattle, Bud Cross Ford, Caldwell Livestock Commission, Kawasaki of Caldwell, Producers Cooperative Association, and South Texas Tack of Brenham, Texas.

Breed Headlines continued on page 18»

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Breed Headlines continued from page 16.

Silver sponsors included the following: 44 Farms, Bluebonnet Electric Co-op, The American Brahman Review, Cattle in Motion, Citizens State Bank, Elanco, American Hereford Association, and Positive Feed, Inc.

Ranch Sponsors included the following: Alford Cattle Company, Bradley B3R Ranch, Bulls Eye Ranch, Casas Cattle, Circle H Ranch, Double A Ranch, Dubina Rose Ranch, LTD, Dyess Farms, England Cattle Company, Flying W Ranch, J.D. Hudgins, Inc., Merial, Partin & Partin Heart Bar Ranch, Purina Animal Nutrition, Royal K Ranch, Sartwelle Brahman Ranch, Satterfield Ranch, SRS Land & Cattle Company, Texas Hereford Association, V8 Ranch, and Zoetis.

The certification of the F-1 female program is a service offered by the American Brahman Breeders Association to give proper recognition and new value dimensions to the F-1 female. Certification of these females serves the same purpose as registration papers issued by purebred registries for animals within their own breed: the certificate or ear tag identifies the dam's purity while establishing her F-1 Brahman female identity.

For more information about the ABBA F-1 Program, Brahman cattle, and the American Brahman Breeders Association, visit www.brahman.org.



Sale Dedication: Glen & Rosalie Richardson



Champion Pairs: John Malazzo Farms of Caldwell, TX



Champion Exposed Pen: John Malazzo Farms of Caldwell, TX



Champion Open Pen: Bonchasse Lany & Cattle Co. LLC of Shreveport, LA

ABBA Spring Select Brahman Sale Set for May 31, 2014 in Opelousas, LA

The American Brahman Breeders Association and Broken Triangle Cattle are pleased to announce the 2014 ABBA Spring Select Brahman Sale, set for May 31 at the Copper Crowne Training Center in Opelousas, Louisiana. This elite sale will include carefully screened Brahman genetics from some of the association's top Brahman breeders.

The sale offering will include Brahman cow/calf pairs, bred females, and open heifers. Additionally, there will be haltered show prospects presented for those interested in showing Brahman cattle. To ensure a complete package for all prospective buyers, there will also be a chance to purchase flushes and semen packages, as well as herd sire prospects from ABBA members.

The ABBA Spring Select Sale is to be held at Copper Crowne Training Center, centrally located just north of Lafayette, LA, one-half mile from Interstate 49.

The sale will be broadcast live through Cattle In Motion with internet bidding available for interested buyers. Cattle will be available for viewing on Friday, May 30 and on sale day.

To consign cattle, request a catalog or for more information on the ABBA Spring Select Sale contact Milton Charanza, Sale Manager at 979-450-8588 or Chris Shivers at 713-349-0854.



Spring Demand for Brangus Strong at Salacoa Valley Farms

FAIRMOUNT, GA - Spring was finally evident in Georgia as an overflow crowd gathered at Salacoa Valley Farms in Fairmont, Georgia on a pleasant and sunny day. The two day sale activities were kicked off as Alex Johns, Mike Saucedo and John Dembeck of the Seminole Tribe of Florida shared the details and exciting opportunities ahead for Seminole Pride Beef. It is a branded beef program that will feature products in the upper two thirds of Choice. In addition there will be Select product lines developed and will allow vertical integration throughout the beef production chain. The Seminole Tribe of Florida will participate as a cow calf producer and through Salacoa Valley Farms as a seedstock provider of genetics to assist customers and fellow cow calf producers in producing cattle that meet the specs and then procuring those cattle for the Seminole Pride Beef system.

72 registered buyers from 13 states drove strong and steady demand throughout the day for the 65 the Brangus bulls. The day's top selling bull, at \$8,750 was Lot 103, Salacoa Stonewall 23Z89. This moderate and big topped son of the \$18,500 23T721 cow, boasted EPDs in the breed's top 4% REA and 5% YW with moderate BW. He sold to Don Thomas and Sons, Madison, MO.

Williamson Cattle Company, Okeechobee, FLA purchased the sec-

ond high selling bull as he paid \$7,500 to own lot 109, Salacoa Hannibal 23Z56. This light birth weight Hannibal son featured R532 on the bottom side of the pedigree and boasted big time REA and Milk to go with his impressive performance. Williamson Cattle Company also paid \$7,250 to own Lot 106, Salacoa Brazile 332Z16. This light birth weight Brazile son records 9 EPD traits in the breed's top 35% or greater and his dam is a maternal sister to R532.

The Branch Ranch, Mansfield, LA purchased the fourth high selling bull when they paid \$6,750 to own Lot 140, Oaks Mr Swift 361Z70. He is extremely balanced in his EPDs with huge weight numbers, big and balanced carcass EPDs and curve bending birth weight values. His dam was the top selling sale female, consigned by The Oaks Farm.

The day's top selling female at \$20,000 was Lot 20, CB MS Affirmed 361T10, consigned by The Oaks Farm, Newnan, GA. She boasted 2 @ 111 WR and had a fancy Swift heifer calf at side. Draggin M Ranch, El Dorado, AR was the purchaser.

The Branch Ranch purchased the second high selling female of the day when they purchased Lot 64, CLVR Miss. Dominika 889Z7 for \$7,250. She records 9 EPD traits in the breed's 20% or greater and is sired by the multiple trait leader Csonka. This fall bred heifer was safe to New Vision and consigned by Clover Ranch, Marietta, GA.

The third high selling female was another Oaks consignment, Lot 54, Oaks Ms Hombre 392A42. This open heifer is impeccable in her phenotype and powerful in her EPD tabulations. Her dam is a Csonka daughter out of the popular 392J11 donor cow.

Second Chance Brangus, Gulfport, MS paid \$5,500 to own the fourth high selling female. She was another high quality open heifer consigned by Clover Ranch, Lot 53, CLVR Miss Nuff Said 166A. Her dam is a Summit cow and she boasts top 15% REA with top 20% WW and YW EPDs.

65 Brangus Bulls grossed \$267,950 to average \$4,122

26 Spring Calving Brangus and Ultrablack grossed \$92,050 to average \$3,540

16 Open Brangus and Ultrablack Heifers grossed \$51,300 to average \$3,206

15 Fall Calving Brangus and Ultrablack females and 3N1's grossed \$48,650 to average \$3,243

57 Brangus and Ultrablack Females grossed \$192,000 to average \$3,368

Board Approved Committee Chairs

These are the approved standing committee chairs for 2014:

Finance - Brandon Belt

Breed Improvement - Chuck Sword

Commercial Marketing - Danny Farris

Promotion - Cody Garris

Member Service and Education - Mike Vorel

Show - Russ Williamson

Awards - Robert Field

Officer Nomination - R.L. Robbs

Junior Advisory - Mike Kammerer

International - Bill Davis

Genetic Conditions Information Can Be Found on IBBA's Website

A new Genetic Conditions addition has been added to the Brangus website. The information is located in the upper right hand corner of the portal at the login screen. It includes direct links to the DNA submission

forms for both Zoetis and GeneSeek. It also includes the genetic conditions video, a "frequently asked question" section, and direct links to Zoetis and GeneSeeks general beef genomics websites.

Call for DDA or DDC Embryos for Research

ATTN Members: The IBBA requests donated DDA* and/or DDC** embryos for research purposes. Contact Dr. Tommy Perkins at the office if you are interested in participating.

*DDA is homozygous for both bad copies of the DD gene

**DDC is heterozygous and carries one bad copy of the DD gene

Please note: The only animals required to be tested for DD and other genetic conditions are AI sires and donor dams. Failure to test AI sires and/or donor dams with impacted genetics for DD or other genetic conditions may result in a delay in future registrations of their offspring until such tests are performed.

West Coast Brangus Breeders Fundraiser for Juniors

Drought is scary and tough on everyone, especially the juniors who are struggling to make ends meet with their show heifers and steers. To help out, the West Coast Brangus Breeders are offering "Extreme Drought" t-shirts for only \$20 (plus a small shipping charge). Proceeds will be divided between the West Coast Brangus Breeders Junior Program and the Santa Barbara County 4-H Beef Project.

Visit <http://www.spanishranch.net/store.html> to order online! Mens and ladies styles available - only \$20

Contact Pam Doiron at doiron@spanishranch.net for more information.

GENETRUST at Suhn Cattle Company Bull Sale

EUREKA, KS - As cattlemen continue to try to find ways to take advantage of this record setting market, the annual GENETRUST Brangus and Ultrablack Bull Sale at Suhn Cattle Company, Eureka, KS was the gathering point for many of those seeking increased performance and maternal traits on Tuesday March 25, 2014. A standing room only crowd gathered to evaluate, bid and buy 158 breed leading Brangus and UltraBlack bulls, as well as a select group of UltraBlack commercial females.

Leading off the most consistent offering ever presented in the 21 years Vern Suhn has hosted this sale was Lot 58, TJM Final Cut 302A, raised by Jack Moore. This moderate framed, deep sided individual landed in the top 30% or better for an astounding 10 traits, making him a true curve bending breeding piece while maintaining excellent feet and leg structure in a pedigree package that is an outcross to many of the popular Brangus

sires. When the gavel fell at \$40,000 for ½ interest and full possession in this breed leader, Cavender Brangus, Jacksonville, Texas and Schmidt Farms, Texarkana, Texas teamed up to own him. Similar in his type and kind, as a moderate framed, high volume sire with tremendous shape and dimension, Lot 40, JAK Dimension 98A made his debut two lots later. Outstanding performance data and ratios helped propel this bull, raised by Hughes Cattle Services, to be the 2nd high selling lot of the day at \$20,000 for 2/3rd interest and full possession to the international semen distributor Semex Beef, Guelph, Ontario to anchor their Brangus lineup. Flawless in his lines with as much natural muscle shape as one could ask for was the 3rd high selling bull at \$16,000, Lot 97 TJM Final Cut 535A, from Jack Moore. Recognized as the top son out of one of the great matrons of the breed, this high performer was selected by Clover Ranch of Marietta, GA to complement their exclusive cowherd.

Breed HeadLines continued on page 20 ►►

Breed Headlines continued from page 19.

Ultrablack bulls continue to gain popularity throughout the Midwest and beyond, and that certainly stayed true to form throughout the offering. Leading the UltraBlack offering was Lot 64, SCC Landau 331A4 raised by Suhm Cattle Company. Noted for his tremendous extension from end to end, the overall width and mass down his top and throughout his hip and rear quarter, as well as the fact he presented breeding leading growth, maternal, and carcass EPDs made him an obvious selection for longtime GENETRUST customers Mark, Will and Matt Barnett and family in Clarksville, TN at \$15,500 for 2/3rd interest and possession.

At days end, 130 Brangus bulls averaged \$5406, while 28 UltraBlack bulls averaged \$6148 for an overall average of \$5538 on 158 bulls. The volume buyer for the day was repeat customer Frosty Tipton, Winnemucca, NV. New to the sale at Suhm Cattle Company was a unique offering of 40 home raised, 3 & 4 year old commercial Ultrablack females from long time GENETRUST customers Zac and Courtney O'Brien, South Coffeyville, OK. This outstanding set of females, selling on video with a May 15th delivery as pairs, were a combination of industry leading bulls from the Suhm Cattle Company herd as well as the famed Connealy Angus herd

in Nebraska. Recognizing the quality presented through years of strenuous culling as an opportunity was Jerry Hall, as he selected all 40 at \$3100/pair to add to his program in Fredonia, KS.

Joe Cavender and crew will host the next offering of GENETRUST genetics at Cavender's Neches River Ranch in Jacksonville, TX Saturday April 26, 2014 where 150 Registered Brangus Females and 400 Commercial Females will be available for appraisal. The fall sale season will be kicked off October 31 & November 1, 2014 at Chimney Rock Cattle Company with an elite offering of Brangus and UltraBlack Bulls, as well as Registered and Commercial Brangus Females. For more information on breed leading Brangus seedstock, the nation's foremost line-up of Brangus A.I. sires or private treaty offerings visit www.genetrustbrangus.com.

Registered Bull Averages 130 Brangus Bulls \$5406 28 Ultrablack Bulls \$6148 Total 158 Brangus & Ultrablack Bulls \$5538

Commercial Females 40 3&4 Year Old Ultrablack Pairs \$3100

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SGBI Announces Release of Genomic EPDs

Santa Gertrudis Breeders International recently announced that the association has transitioned to genomic enhanced EPDs. SGBI Executive Director John Ford stated that the move to DNA validated EPDs was possible due to the farsightedness of members that saw the value DNA technology offered as a decision making

tool. Santa Gertrudis Breeders International is the first Bos indicus influenced breed to offer members and their customers this cutting edge

selection tool. Ford also commented the association's genetic evaluation provider, Livestock Genetic Services, is developing simple to use selection indexes utilizing GE-EPDs as the foundation. These index tools will provide SGBI's bull and female buying customers with a clear picture of the dollar value an animal will add to an operation. Ford went on to state that SGBI is excited about the incorporation of DNA into the EPD system and the association is planning to officially announce the release of the enhanced genetic evaluation in early summer.

SGBI Names 2014 Board of Directors

Curtis Salter, Milton, Florida, was selected to serve a second term as president of Santa Gertrudis Breeders International during the recently completed 63rd Annual Membership Meeting held in Branson, Missouri, March 27 – 29, 2014. Joining Salter on the SGBI Leadership Team are Secretary/Treasurer Deanna Parker, Kentucky, Vice President Breed Improvement Yancey Strait, Texas, Vice President Marketing & Promotion Wes McDaniel, Georgia, Vice President Youth Activities Betty McCor-

mick, Texas, Vice President Membership Jerome Urbanosky, Texas and Vice President Long Range Planning Warren Harris, New Mexico. Serving as Directors for the upcoming year are Tom DuBois, Texas, Cheryl Grainger, Texas, Wylie Taliaferro, Texas, John Kiker, Texas, David Alderson, Tennessee, Debbie Gautz, Missouri, Pat Stults, Texas, Gary Harding, Oklahoma, Gene McCarter, Tennessee, John Denson, Georgia, and Todd Osborne, Missouri.

Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Welcomes Richmond to Staff

Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Executive Director John Ford recently announced the addition of Darren Richmond to the SGBI staff. Richmond was named the association's Member Services Field Representative during the organization's spring board meeting. Richmond was raised on the family Polled Hereford operation in Northwest Arkansas. He exhibited cattle on the local, state, and national level as a junior exhibitor. After receiving a degree in Animal Science from the University of Arkansas, Richmond began work, in 1983, as herdsman for L&L Santa Gertrudis in Decatur, Arkansas. Since that time he has worked for a number of Santa Gertrudis operations and managed a successful custom fitting and cattle marketing firm. Richmond and his wife Jill reside in Ringgold, Georgia and are the parents of two children, daughter Taylor Ware and

son Payne. As Member Services Field Representative, Richmond will represent SGBI and the official breed publication Santa Gertrudis USA at industry functions and activities. He will also assist cattlemen in locating and securing Santa Gertrudis genetics. Richmond will be based in Ringgold, Georgia and can be reached at (423) 364-9281 or by e-mail at djrichmd@aol.com



Annual Santa Gertrudis Bluebonnet Classic

HALLETTSVILLE, TX - Fifty six head of registered Santa Gertrudis cattle sold at the 2014 Annual Santa Gertrudis Bluebonnet Classic, Saturday, March 22nd, at the Lavaca Expo Center, Hallettsville, Texas.

The Bluebonnet Classic focuses on offering some of the best replacement females in the breed. This was the thirteenth consecutive year for the sale. This year's volume buyer was James McAda from Bay City, Texas.

The high selling lot was a cow/heifer calf pair sold by Strait Ranches, Carrizo Springs, Texas and purchased by Heather & Kevin Blewett, New Braunfels, Texas. High selling bull was consigned by Four J Cattle, Hallettsville, Texas and purchased by Erik & Kim Wiley, Deville, Louisiana. Cody & Selina Hodges, DeLeon, Texas purchased the high selling bred heifer from Harris Farms, Cleburne, Texas. Harris Farms sold the high selling open heifer to Red Doc Farm, Belen, New Mexico.

Debbie Townsed, Sale Chairman, and the consigners were delighted at

this year's crowd. It was good to see so many return buyers and welcome visitors from Texas and Louisiana.

Averages:

3N1s = \$3,070

Pairs = \$3,890

Breds = \$2,370

Opens = \$2,260

Bulls = \$2570

Gross sales: \$147,300

Average per animal: \$2,630

Sponsors for this sale were Borchers Southern Y Ranch, L.P., LBR Ranches, Corporon Acres, Dos Bros Ranches, DuBois Cattle Co., Four J Cattle, Harris Farms, Hefley BHR Ranch, NAF Cattle Division, Rancho Salida del Sol, Strait Ranches, Townsend Cattle Co., Twin Creek Ranch, and Wendt Ranch.



Pine Ridge Releases Data

ATHENS, TX - Pine Ridge Ranch, Athens, Texas recently released data on a group of 19 Simbrah steers bred at their ranch and then fed and harvested. Fifteen of the steers graded Choice, three Prime and one Select. The average

Yield Grade was 2.5 with an average ribeye of 15.8 with an average dressing percentage of 64.8. The group saw an average carcass weight of 895 pounds with 0.42 Fat score. For additional information visit their website at www.simbrah.com

New Officers/Directors Elected to Simbrah Advisory Council

Simbrah breeders met during activities at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Tim Smith, American Simmental Association trustee updated the crowd about association matters and Simbrah issues particularly.

Joe B. Rodriguez and Rene Vela were elected to serve as directors on the

advisory council as Tim Smith and Carlos Guerra's terms expired. The board now consists of Wayne Reavis, Rickey Burch, Jane Travis, Rodriguez and Vela. Reavis was then elected president; Burch vice-president and Rodriguez secretary-treasurer.

Industry News

BLM Trying to Take Land Along Red River

APRIL 14, 2014 - Most people think the border between Texas and Oklahoma is the Red River. Unfortunately, it's a little more complicated than that, especially along the part of the river where Tommy Henderson and his family ranch.

Henderson lost a lawsuit 30 years ago that moved part of the northern Texas border over a mile to the south.

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] took 140 acres of his property and didn't pay him one cent.

Now, they want to use his case as precedent to seize land along a 116-mile stretch of the river.

"They're wanting to take the boundaries that the courts placed here and extend those east and west to the forks of the river north of Vernon and east to the 98th Meridian which is about 20 miles east of us," Henderson explained.

BLM, which oversees public land in the United States, claims this land never belonged to Texas.

The Texas landowners who have lived and cared for that land for hundreds of years beg to differ.

BLM plans on taking the land anyway. Property owners will be forced to spend money on lawsuits to keep what is theirs.

For many, that property has been in their family for generations.

"How can BLM come in and say, 'Hey, this isn't yours.' Even though it's patented from the state, you've always paid taxes on it. Our family has paid taxes for over 100 years on this place. We've got a deed to it. But yet they walked in and said it wasn't ours," said Henderson.

Ever since the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, there has been controversy over where Oklahoma ends and Texas begins.

In layman's terms the boundary is the vegetation line on the south side of the Red River.

Over time the river moves. This movement north toward Oklahoma is the sticking point.

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The sandy soils erode in a process called accretion, which wipes out the bank. So the property line follows the river.

BLM claims that the river moved by another process called avulsion. With avulsion, the land may be changed by flood or currents, but the property line isn't. So BLM claims that when the river moved back north the property line stayed put.

It doesn't help that Oklahoma defines avulsion differently than Texas and the U.S.

"Originally, here the river was out there where it is now and it eroded and accreted up to here, and then it eroded and accreted back. Well, their interpretation is that it eroded up to here but avulsed back. So when you listen to them it is always erosion to the south because the property line follows it then, but it's always avulsion when it goes north. So the boundary can move south but it can never move back north," said Henderson.

About 90,000 acres could be seized by BLM, disappearing across a new

state line. If they are allowed to take the land, it could also affect farmers and ranchers down river like Scott Carpenter, who ranches north of Nocona.

BLM couldn't take his land, but there would be nothing to stop his neighbor across the river from claiming some of Scott's property belongs to him. That is just one of the reasons Carpenter wants to help.

"We have numerous places that have been in our family for over a hundred of years, and you hate to see land that people's worked hard for would lose," said Carpenter. "As producers we are always on a defense. We have to make decisions to try to help ourselves to help one another."

Both ranchers have been in contact with U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry, who is working to help stop the land grab. Henderson's land probably won't be affected this time, but he's hoping what happened to him won't happen to his fellow landowners.

- Texas Farm Bureau

James Henderson Recognized at HLSR Intercollegiate Meats Judging Contest Awards Breakfast

MARCH 28, 2014 - At the recent Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Intercollegiate Meats Judging Contest Awards Breakfast James Henderson and John Bellinger were honored for their years of service with the contest.

The HLSR has named its traveling trophy for the senior division the "James Henderson Award." The A-division trophy (Junior College) was named for John Bellinger in 2012.

Henderson and Bellinger were instrumental in starting the HLSR Intercollegiate Meats Contest at HLSR thirty-five years ago. Henderson served as its Superintendent for thirty-two years. This collegiate con-

test led the way for the HLSR 4-H and FFA contests to become established as well.

Since the inception of the Intercollegiate Meats Contest thousands of students have competed in the contest. Many of these students have become active in the livestock and meats industry and utilize their judging experience in their careers today.

James Henderson is an owner of Bradley 3 Ranch, Memphis and Clarendon, TX and works as the Ranch's Operations and Genetic Manager. John Bellinger owns Food Safety Net Laboratories and Agri-West exporters both based in San Antonio, TX.

Unusual Cover Crop Mix Cuts Need for Hay Production by 75%

It took Jerry Doan several years and a lot of trials, but the North Dakota beef producer has learned how to replace hay with cover crops for winter feed. It was time well spent. Doan said he's reducing annual feed costs by as much as \$50,000.

Those big savings are great, but the benefits don't end there. Doan said he's seen improved health in the cattle herd, which he attributes to the animals not being confined to a small area.

The greatest improvement he's seen, however, is in soil health. Doan has cut both phosphorus and nitrogen inputs by 25% for some of his row crops that follow covers. He usually grows corn, soybeans, wheat and sunflowers, as well as all his hay (about 1,000 tons per year).

The hay is a mix of alfalfa and native grasses. In this area, cool-season

native grasses may include canarygrass, June grass, needlegrass, wheatgrass and wild rye. Warm-season natives include bluestem, buffalograss, cordgrass, grama, Indian grass, sandreed and switchgrass.

HAY PRODUCTION DOWN

"I'm not a cover crop expert," Doan said. "But spending all summer in a hayfield drove me crazy as a kid. It didn't make sense to bale hay, haul it in, process it, use a machine to feed it and then haul manure back to the field. That might have worked when fuel was \$1 a gallon. Now, it quickly pushes cattlemen to the break-even point."

Doan put up about 4,000 tons of hay each year before he started using covers for grazing. He's now cut hay production by at least 75%.

-DTN/The Progressive Farmer

Selecting a Squeeze Chute Based on BQA Guidelines

In today's cattle market, more and more producers are recognizing the importance of following the guidelines set forth by the national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program.

The BQA embraces a total quality management concept, which not only focuses on food safety and meat quality but also on proper animal handling and the public perception of the beef industry.

Cattlemen looking to improve the quality of their beef through the better management practices of the BQA often need to improve the quality of their cattle-handling equipment.

While these improvements can represent a significant investment, the long-term herd quality improvement makes it a smart investment.

It is important to have the BQA guidelines in mind when selecting new equipment, especially when selecting a squeeze chute.

To choose a squeeze chute that complements the BQA's safe-handling guidelines, producers need to look for a chute that will reduce handling stress on cattle, that will make management practices easy to perform and that will be safe for the animal and operator.

Stress and simplicity

The BQA's stockmanship and stewardship program focuses on increasing cattle performance by reducing handling stress.

While many factors affect animal stress, several of these "stressors" can easily be reduced by simply selecting the right squeeze chute. Producers should look for a chute that operates quietly to minimize loud banging noises that often spook cattle.

The BQA's best management practices guide recommends selecting a chute with curved or contoured sides to better fit the shape of cattle.

This guide also recommends covering the back three-quarters of the chute to reduce distractions that could cause cattle to balk.

It is important that the method used to cover the chute does not inhibit the chute's functionality, making snap-on "blindings" a great option.

Finally, look for an easy-to-operate chute that will minimize the amount of time an animal has to stay in the "squeeze."

By reducing the time that it takes to work each animal, producers can reduce the amount of stress on each animal, with the added benefit of

spending less time “working” cattle.

Help with identification

Another major focus of the BQA is encouraging cattlemen to perform a number of important management practices to improve record-keeping and herd health.

Having the right squeeze chute can make performing these tasks quicker and easier. For producers that use branding as a means of identification, having a chute with a secure squeeze and adequate flank access is important.

For producers that use ear tags or tattoos, it is important that the chute provide a safe way to restrain the animal's head.

Injection access

Since the BQA states that all injections must be administered in front of the shoulders, cattlemen should also look for a chute that provides adequate access to an animal's neck.

This can be accomplished by an access port built into the frame of the chute or through the addition of neck extenders. For sick animals, it is important that the chute allow secure access to the affected part of the animal.

This could include drop-down panels to allow access to an animal's back, side, hooves or udder. Access through the tailgate to the rear of the animal may also be required for procedures that require palpation.

Safety and size

Safety is a topic included in every aspect of the BQA program, so it is important to select a squeeze chute that is safe for the cattle being run through it.

The BQA recommends minimizing slippery surfaces that could cause cattle to fall, so producers should look for a chute with a floor that is grooved or ridged to provide cattle with good traction.

It is also important that the size of the chute fit the size of the cattle. For producers with mixed cattle sizes, like cow-calf herds, look for a chute that can be easily and quickly adjusted to change the width of the chute, the fit of the squeeze or headgate, and the width of the chute entry point.

Cow-calf producers should be especially mindful of the chute entry point or tailgate function, as some squeeze chutes leave a wide opening for calves to “escape” through when the chute is adjusted down to its

narrowest width.

An additional safety feature to look for is an emergency exit that will allow a downed or distressed animal to safely exit the chute if the need arises.

Safety for the operator is also key, so it is imperative cattlemen are familiar with the proper use of their cattle-handling equipment. Producers should look for an easy-to-operate chute.

For example, make sure the mechanisms on the chute can be comfortably reached and operated without having to use excessive force.

Be aware of the placement of levers and handles on the chute to ensure they won't get in the way of the operator while the chute is in use and that there are no sharp edges or dangerous pinch points.

The BQA also recommends regular equipment cleaning and maintenance, so look at the durability and maintenance requirements of a chute before purchasing.

The BQA's total quality management approach has been instrumental in helping cattle producers adopt better management practices for their herds.

It has also helped producers realize the importance of having the right cattle-handling equipment to make following the BQA guidelines easier.

By selecting a squeeze chute that reduces handling stress on cattle, producers see increased meat quality and efficiency.

Having the right chute also makes it easier to perform important management practices, leading to better record-keeping and healthier herds. Finally, selecting a chute with safety in mind leads to fewer injuries to animals and producers.

Cattlemen who are familiar with the guidelines of the BQA can apply them to selecting not just their squeeze chute, but their complete handling system.

For more information about the BQA guidelines, visit www.bqa.org or contact your state BQA coordinator. There are numerous publications and videos available from the BQA that can help you improve your cattle-handling techniques and the overall quality of your beef.

-Progressive Cattleman

Implement Tires Earn Respect: Manufactureres Giving Implement Tires Much-Needed Attention

Pity the poor implement tire, little guy and unsung hero of the farm field. Tractor tires get all the glory with their giant lugs, flexing sides and imposing heights. But implement tires are the ones in the trenches. No bigger than truck tires, they carry the planters and the tillage tools, which are the reasons those fancy tractor tires are in the field in the first place.

TACKY TIRES

Until recently, implement tires have been treated as commodities: Make them good but make them as cheaply as possible because farmers aren't going to pay much for them. That meant using standard compounds and little in the way of new technology. Heck, the tires that come on a new \$200,000 planter often aren't even new tires. They are used truck tires that have been given some new tread to go off-road.

Suddenly, though, the attitude toward implement tires is changing. The work-a-day grunts are going high tech. They are getting sleek IF and VF bodies, and new compounds. Some of them are even getting Kevlar jackets to make them almost bulletproof.

What has changed the attitude toward implement tires is the change of environment in which they now work. The loads they carry today are huge; a 40-foot tandem disk can weigh 30,000 pounds. The fields themselves are filled with corn stubble that is tougher and sharper than it was just a few years ago.

“It's like you are going across a field with bayonets every 7 inches,” said Tom Rodgers, sales and marketing director for Firestone ag tires. All of this led to problems of compaction building in fields when every

bushel of yield counts and with tires going flat at the most inopportune times, like during a short planting window.

Farmers complained and manufacturers are responding.

COMPACTION

“We do all this work on tractor tires so we get the psi down to 8 or 10, and make the tires squat to create a bigger footprint,” Rodgers said. “Then we pull behind it what is basically a road roller, which creates all kinds of compaction.”

That's one way to describe implements and the tires they ride on.

Imagine a 36-row hopper-style planter that stretches 60 feet wide. When it folds, it rides on four tires that have to fit into a relatively small envelope—about 31 inches in diameter and 9 inches wide.

“Unfortunately, you have to inflate your tires to 100 to 105 psi to carry all that load,” said Scott Sloan, ag product manager for Titan/Goodyear. “Once that thing [the planter] unfolds, you have these four tires that no longer have to be at that high psi ... but they still are. Now you have these giant pizza cutters rolling through the field compacting the soil.”

That's another way to describe implements and the tires on which they ride.

YIELD LOSSES

The effect of compaction from implement tires varies, but it's never

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good. "I have seen yield monitors [in a field planted with a 24-row planter where] ... every 12 rows you see four rows that are lower yielding because of planter tires causing compaction," Sloan said.

Radial tires fight compaction by stretching a tire's footprint to reduce pressure on the soil. Major tire manufacturers have been doing that with the big guys -- tractor and combine tires -- for years. They recently began offering the little guys -- implement tires -- the radial treatment.

Firestone launched its Destination Farm brand implement tires last year and now offers two versions in several sizes. IF-designated radials can carry 20% more load than a bias tire at the same air pressure. VF-designated radials can carry 40% more load than a bias tire at the same air pressure.

Titan's new radial implement tires are the Goodyear FS24s, which come in several sizes. They are highway rated at 30 mph and have a load capacity of 6,400 pounds at 73 psi. Comparable bias tires have a load capacity of 5,616 pounds at 90 psi. The radial advantage is clear.

Michelin's XP27 radials are sized exclusively for large implements like tillage tools. "The demand has really picked up because these machines are getting so enormous," said James Crouch, Michelin's farm segment marketing manager for North America. He expects that's a long-term trend: "Demand for premium radial tires will continue to increase because manufacturers are not going to suddenly start making implements smaller."

So far, radial implement tires are mainly available as replacements. Some shortline manufacturers have gone to radials as options on new equipment. Larger original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), however, have been slow to offer them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS

Taller, wider tires with a larger air chamber would be an ideal long-term solution for compaction, Sloan said, because they could hold more weight with less psi. But such tires won't fit in the envelope implement designers now reserve for tires.

"We have been telling them [OEMs] for years and years that as planters and tillage tools get bigger -- if they keep that same size envelope -- there is nowhere to go but up for inflation rates, which means more compaction."

He hopes OEMs might be close to making some major design changes. "I think you are going to see some pretty dramatic shifts in the next year or so in the way planters are designed to kind of open up that envelope."

Rodgers is not convinced: "There is certain [equipment] geography you can't get away from. I think there will be some changes, but we are not going to see tractor-sized tires on implements."

Another possibility is to create an automated system that would lower the psi on carrier wheels when they are in the field and raise it again when they are in transport mode. The technology is available but so far not on the market. Of course, manual inflation changes are possible, if time-consuming.

El Nino Update

The Pacific Ocean ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation) barometric feature known as the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) continues to show a neutral scenario. As of April 21, 2014, the SOI reading for the last 30 days was a +2.2; the 90-day number was -2.5; with the daily contribution to the SOI calculation at +3.5. The figures are tallied by the Australia Bureau of Meteorology, and represent the barometer values on the island of Tahiti and Darwin, Australia.

For El Nino to be in effect, the 30-day SOI needs to show a sustained value of -8.0 or lower. However, research done by Iowa State University has an additional parameter, which is that the SOI 90-day value needs to be a -8.0 or lower in order for El Nino-related conditions to make an impact on the Corn Belt.

El Nino development--or the possibility thereof--is being closely watched on both sides of the Pacific. In the U.S., rain and mild temperatures are being eagerly anticipated (I think such a description is valid). In contrast, producers in Australia are concerned that El Nino

STALK ATTACK

The issue of stalk damage to implement tires has been around ever since new corn hybrids with stronger stalks hit the market. It reached a head for Titan a few years ago when Iowa farmer Mark Dimit complained loudly to the company that his two new planters suffered six flats in one planting season. His wasn't the first complaint, but it struck a nerve. The following year, Titan gave him some new tires to test that contained Kevlar.

Part of the reason Dimit and others are having stalk damage problems is that implement tires must be dual-purpose tires. If they are to run on the highway, they must be constructed with soft compounds that can take the heat road friction generates. Hard compounds crack too easily under heat, and treads separate.

Yet in the field, soft compounds are at the mercy of today's tough stubble. It pecks at tires and creates tiny holes and premature wear. In extreme instances, it will even puncture a tire.

Manufacturers typically order highway service tires primarily because of their ability to carry 20% higher loads at 30 mph, said Sloan, whose company (Titan) supplies the majority of implement tires to OEMs in the U.S.

"The highway service tires have to meet certain DOT requirements [they must be able to run safely at 30 mph, for instance], but stubble puncture resistance is not one of them," Sloan said. "When the tough stubble meets the softer, cooler-running highway tread, it created a perfect storm. We were really getting beat up."

WHAT TO DO?

Using steel belts and steel bodies is one strategy to make tires more puncture resistant; Firestone and Michelin both created radial implement tires with that type of construction to ward off stubble. The strategy allows the companies to create tires with radial configurations that are highway rated (30 mph).

Titan decided on a more unusual strategy. It used multi-ply nylon construction in its implement tires. In some of its newer tires, it doubled the number of plies and added belts made of Kevlar, the material used in bulletproof vests. "A bulletproof vest doesn't have just one large ply in it, it has multiple layers," Sloan explains.

To complete the package, Titan engineers built the whole thing with a tractor tire compound that is resistant to stubble. Titan's Stubble Guard implement tires cost 40% more than its other tires. But, Sloan points out, "In the heat of battle in planting season, you don't want a flat tire, much less six; service calls are expensive."

Stubble Guard is not rated to run 30 mph on the highway but can be used for transport at lower speeds.

For tougher tires that are highway rated, Titan offers Goodyear Stubble Resistant tires with new compounds and nylon -- but no Kevlar -- belts.

With so many more options, implement tires are getting more respect.

-DTN/The Progressive Farmer

development would lead to drought conditions and threaten to reduce wheat production in Australia.

-DTN/The Progressive Farmer

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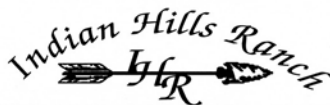
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Judge Rules 'Pink Slime' Lawsuit Against ABC News Can Proceed

MARCH 28, 2014 - A South Dakota circuit court judge has ruled that Beef Products Inc. can proceed with its \$1.2 billion lawsuit against ABC and its news department for its 2012 coverage referring to its beef product as "pink slime."

Judge Cheryle Gering ruled Thursday that 22 of the 27 defamation claims pursued by BPI could proceed, according to a Reuters news report. The company says the network, with Diane Sawyer and reporter Jim Avila also named in the lawsuit, did damage to company and its lean finely textured beef in reports aired in the spring of 2012.

Sales of the beef product dropped drastically after ABC's string of reports over several weeks. The company eventually closed three of its four operations, cutting 700 jobs.

"The entirety of the broadcasts can be reasonably interpreted as insinuating that plaintiffs are improperly selling a product that is not nutritious and/or not safe for the public's consumption," the judge wrote.

Gering also said the contexts in which ABC made some of the statements to which BPI objected justified allowing the Dakota Dunes-based company to continue its case.

"For example, the use of the term 'pink slime' with a food product can be reasonably interpreted as implying that the food product is not meat and is not fit to eat, which are objective facts which can be proven," the judge wrote.

ABC News spokesman Jeffrey Schneider said: "We will defend our reporting vigorously on the merits."

In seeking to dismiss the case, ABC had argued that it never said BPI's product was unsafe, and that the case was an attempt to chill media coverage of the industry and inhibit free speech.

-Progressive Cattleman

the **EAR** Calendar

Please note that events/sales in **bold** have ads placed in this issue. Check them out!

May

- 3 Live Oak BBA Spring Sale - Sulphur Springs, TX
- 3 L2 Ranch Production Sale - Beeville, TX
- 3 JLS International "Winning Tradition XI" Sale - Devine, TX
- 3-6 La Muneca's GenePLUS Online Sale
- 10 Santa Gertrudis Breeders of the Carolinas Sale - Cheste, SC
- 10 Central States BBA Heart of Oklahoma Sale - Locust Grove, OK
- 17 Miller Brangus Spring Production Sale - Waynesboro, TN**
- 17 Emmons Ranch Production Sale - Fairfield, TX
- 17 Buzzard Hollow Ranch's Designer Classic Sale - Granbury, TX
- 24 Lone Star BBA Spring Sale - Sulphur Springs, TX
- 24-25 The Elite Simbrah Sale - Yoakum, TX
- 31 The Event Red Brangus Sale - Brenham, TX
- 31 ABBA Spring Select Sale - Opelousas, LA
- 4 Painted Springs Smith & Wesson Influenced Sale - Thompson Station, TN
- 4 Isa Cattle Co. Performance Tested bull Sale - San Angelo, TX
- 11 Salacoa Valley Farms Fall Sale - Fairmount, GA**
- 11 CX Advantage Sale - Weimar, TX
- 11 South Texas BBA Buccaneer Classic Sale - Robstown, TX
- 11 Ozark & Heart of America Fall Female Sale - Tulsa, OK
- 18 Doguet Diamond D Ranch Sale - Poteet, TX
- 18 Town Creek Farm Bull & Commercial Bred Heifer Sale - West Point, MS
- 18 Central Texas BBA Beef "On" Forage Bull Sale - Brenham, TX
- 24-26 Simbrah Synergy VII Sale - Giddings, TX
- 25 Miller Brangus Sale - Waynesboro, TN
- 25 Carr & Others Fall Sale - Memphis, TN
- Oct 31- GENETRUST at Chimney Rock - Concord, AR
- Nov 1

June

- 7 Southern Alliance BMG Sale - Cullman, AL
- 7 Carolinas Brahman Sale - Clemson, SC
- 28 Cottage Farm & Clark Jones Southern Tradition XIV Sale - Savannah, TN

August

- 23 Southeastern BBA Convention Sale - Tunica, MS

September

- 6 Lasater Ranch Sale - Matheson, CO
- 13 Thomas & Sons Cadillac of Brangus Sale - Madison, MO
- 20 Heart of Texas Simbrah Association Fall Fest Sale - Hearne, TX
- 27 SEBBA Female Sale - Lake City, FL

October

- 2 Advancing the Breed IV - Lake Charles, LA

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Colossians 3:23-24

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Hicks Cattle Company-Alto, TX
Jackson Family Brangus-Waco, TX
Triple JR Brangus-Schulenburg, TX
McDonald Ranches-Bryan, TX
Boykin Ranch-Franklin, TX
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Circle K Cattle Company-Lumberton, MS
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Shelbie Van Beveren-Victoria, TX
Markham Cattle-Alvin, TX
Haymans 711 Ranch-Kenansville, FL
Rancho Los Pinos-Hempstead, TX
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See You Next Year!

Thanks to Brittini Drennan for the photographs