

THE EAR

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**Santa Gertrudis Feature
A Question on Hybrid Vigor**

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Santa Gertrudis cattle are once again the subject of this month's The Ear magazine and in time for an email from a Santa Gertrudis breeder and reader in Mississippi. The reader had a question about the amount of hybrid vigor lost when going from an F1 to an F2 or that remaining in a two breed cross or a 5/8 – 3/8 breed like Santa Gertrudis.

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Commercial cattlemen have numerous breed and breed combinations to consider when building or rebuilding the cowherd. Publications, websites, and countless other outlets tout the attributes of the various breeds and breed combinations available today. Often attempts are made to tie hide color to profitability. However, knowledgeable cattlemen understand that heterosis, not color, influences profitability. Years of research have continually shown that maximum hybrid vigor is obtained when mating animals of breeds that are completely unrelated, such as a British and/or Continental Breed with a breed containing Bos indicus bloodlines

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As we approach the hot summer months, more and more producers are dealing with the nuisance of pinkeye. Pinkeye is a highly infectious bacterial disease. Although pink-eye is nonfatal, it costs cattle producers over \$150 million per year. These expenses result from decreased weight gain, reduced milk production and treatment costs. Additionally, infected animals are worth less at sale time. Pinkeye is second only to scours/diarrhea in terms of diseases affecting calves.



In previous articles, Investment Per Cow Unit, or Animal Unit, was referenced as a major financial consideration for "ranchers / land investors" since land is likely the major item on their balance sheet. This article will compare land investment per animal unit over a period of time for different areas of the Southwest U.S. From this comparison, a land investor can better realize the long term appreciation, inflation hedge, and a few other factors that affect the outcome of sound farm and ranch land investments.

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The EAR Magazine
c/o AMS Genetics
PO Box 10
Wheelock, TX 77882

Physical:
10541 E OSR
Hearne, TX 77859

Phone: 979/828-2722

Fax: 979/828-5532

www.amscattle.com/the-ear-magazine/

Brad Wright

Billing
979/219-4599
bradw@amscattle.com

Mark Cowan

Advertising Sales
903/495-4522
markc@amscattle.com

Richard Hood

Advertising Sales
979/224-6150
richardh@amscattle.com

Trey Kirkpatrick

Advertising Sales
979/324-5518
treyk@amscattle.com

Crystal Devoll

Graphic Designer/Layout Artist
979/820-8358
cddevoll@gmail.com

Member:



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Have You Heard.... the Truth

This is a very interesting issue of The EAR magazine. Over the past couple of decades King Ranch has been working very progressively on a genomic project that identified and secured higher accuracy breeding values. Through DNA testing their discovery and improvement in their Santa Gertrudis cattle herd has been revolutionary to say the least!!! Using genomic testing and validating through data recording measurements from the pasture to the plate, they have built and used genomic enhanced or GE-EPDs in their breeding and selection for many years. They have taken an approach through indexing methods to secure and calculate a blend of maternal, growth and carcass traits without losing any desired environmental efficiencies.



While their cows are working at all time efficiencies in the "Wild Horse Dessert" of Texas, King Ranch is now producing and proving Santa Gertrudis feeder cattle that will perform and grade considerably above and beyond industry averages, in both USDA quality grade and yield grade. Along with that, they have secured and validated GE-EPDS differences in both tenderness and feed efficiency that are more advanced than any other cattle operation known in the world.

King Ranch has worked closely with Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI), along with progressive Santa Gertrudis breeders like Red Doc Farms, Briggs Ranches, Harris Riverbend Farms, Tinney Farms, Wendt Ranches and Corporon Acres to accumulate DNA test of the primary gene pool in the breed. This with associated recorded data over the years has allowed them to transition SGBI's EPDs to genomic enhanced EPDs or GE-EPDs. This makes Santa Gertrudis the first Bos indicus breed to offer their members and their commercial customers DNA enhanced accurate EPDs. SGBI and its members will now have proven, validated indexing tools to progressively take their herds to more efficient and market accepted capabilities. SGBI's indexes are also being developed totally with the commercial industry in mind. Commercial cattleman will be able to select Santa Gertrudis cattle that will perform to their environmental desires and as well fit industry beef quality demands.

Due to King Ranch and their progressive vision and investment, eyes and ears have been opened by many important feed yards and packers. Extreme premiums on cattle with these known secured genetics are being seen across the industry. SGBI members in their Santa Gertrudis bull sales this Spring are already realizing the demand reward from these tools and genetics. Reported by John Ford, SGBI's Executive Director, an early review of sale data indicates that bulls identified by the DNA validated evaluation as being in the Top 10% of the breed for weaning weight increased in value by \$1,500 in average alone.

As King Ranch and the Santa Gertrudis breed continue to use these tools in their breeding and selection programs, there is absolutely no doubt that the industry will see the largest turn around in demand and acceptance of an individual breed in beef cattle production history.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAT'S OFF TO KING RANCH AND THE SANTA GERTRUDIS BREED!

Exciting Times,

Richard Hood
The EAR Publishing, LLC

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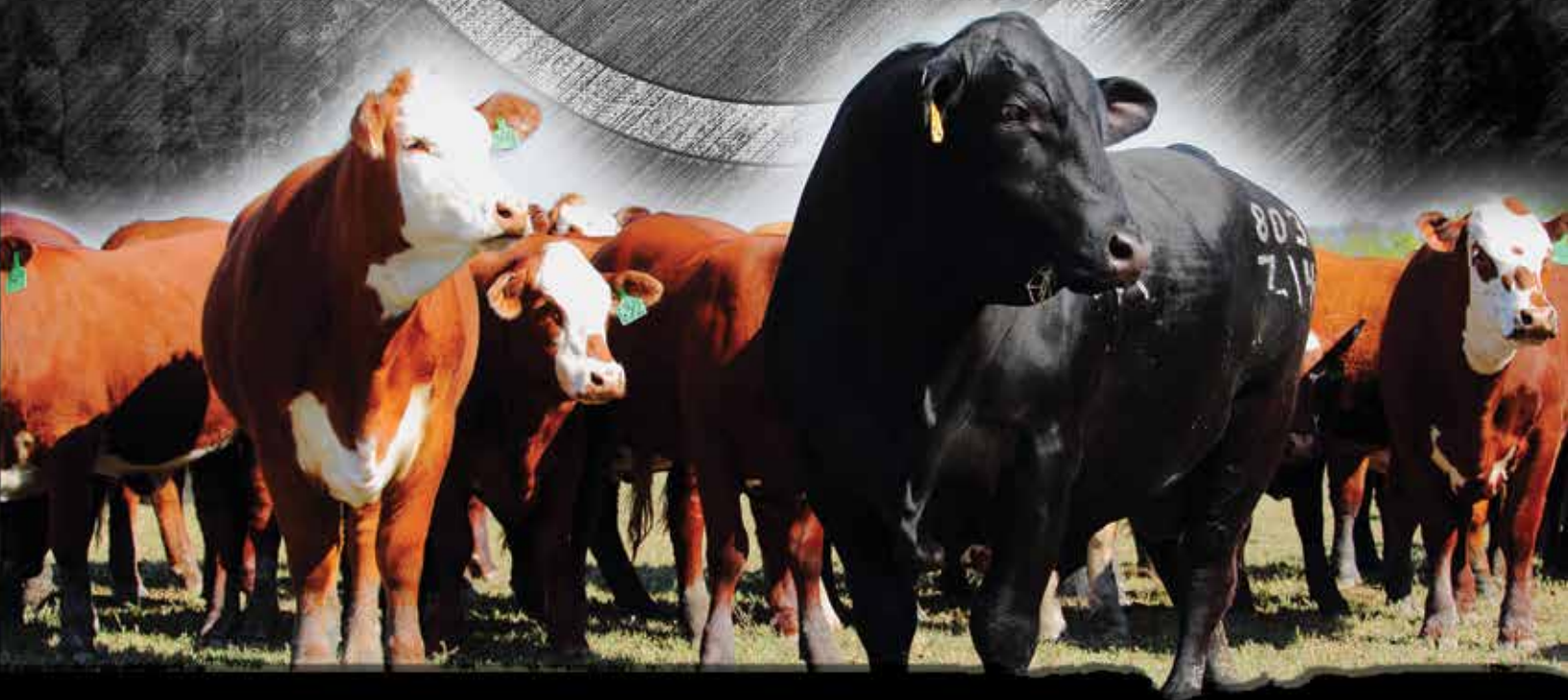
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A QUESTION ON HYBRID VIGOR

Santa Gertrudis cattle are once again the subject of this month's The Ear magazine and in time for an email from a Santa Gertrudis breeder and reader in Mississippi. The reader had a question about the amount of hybrid vigor lost when going from an F_1 to an F_2 or that remaining in a two breed cross or a $5/8 - 3/8$ breed like Santa Gertrudis.

The F_1 calf (the product of two different breeds – or crosses with no breed represented in both parents) receives one gene from each from each of its parental breeds and the interaction of these genes is what we think is the cause of heterosis or hybrid vigor. Since the F_1 has one gene from one parent and the other gene from the second parent at every locus (place on the chromosomes that similar genes are paired) on each chromosome, the F_1 is 100% hybrid and therefore exhibits 100% of the potential maximum heterosis. This potential varies depending on the genetic relationship of the two breeds being crossed. Crossing more distantly related breeds, such as Brahman and a British breed, results in higher heterosis than crossing two British breeds.

When the level of performance of the F_1 for a trait is compared to the average of its parents, that is a measure of hybrid vigor. Hybrid vigor or heterosis can be expressed in terms of the trait (pounds of weaning weight, more calving ease) or as a percentage. It should be noted that hybrid vigor does not always increase a trait, but in beef cattle production that is usually the case.

When crossing F_1 s, to create what is called an F_2 , remember that both F_1 parents have 50% of their genes from one of the base parent breeds (say, breed A) and 50% from the other parent breed (say, breed B). So, there is a 50% chance that each parent will pass to its F_2 offspring genes from breed A and 50%



Star 5 commercial female with commercial calf at side, being bred back to a purebred Santa Gertrudis bull.



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heat or cold, they have been
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commercial calves.



chance of passing from breed B. And that means the F₂ would average having a total of 50% [($.5 \times .5$) $\times 2$] that are not different so, on the average there is a 50% loss of heterosis going from F₁ to F₂. Because of genetic recombination, each F₂ offspring does not inherit exactly the same set of genes, so some may look more like breed A and some more like breed B.

If the F₁ were bred back to one of its parent breeds, that is called a backcross. The original parent breed can only give one type of gene while the F₁ may give one of either type it received from its parental breeds. Now there are two potential outcomes, either the backcross receives the same breed gene from each parent (50% the time) or receives a different breed gene from each parent (also 50% of the time). As a result, even though the genetic makeup of the back-cross is 3/4 - 1/4, the level of hybrid vigor or heterosis is reduced by 50% (of the F₁), just like the F₂.

When crossbred animals of the same breed percentages are crossed, after the second cross, hybrid vigor will stabilize to some fraction of the F₁ and not change in subsequent crosses. The actual level depends on the number and fractions of breeds in the cross. In the case of the F₂, they could be crossed over and over again and, with the exception of inbreeding and a little random genetic recombination, the level of hybrid vigor would not decrease past 50%. In the case of a 5/8 - 3/8 cross as outlined in the Braford article (but it fits here too for Santa Gertrudis), the breed maintains about 15/32 heterosis of the F₁ (or about $5/8 \times 3/8 \times 2 = 46.8\%$). There is a fancy statistical formula for this but I think if you saw it you would take my word for it that my answer is correct. The beauty of the formula is that it can calculate the expected percent heterosis for any number of breed crosses. In fact, heterosis is just a measure of how much heterozygosity is in the cross. Inbred animals have less heterozygosity and have reduced performance; crossbred animals have increased heterozygosity and increased performance.



A good friend of mine, a mentor of sorts and a Braford breeder Dr. Rodney Roberson once said many years ago while we were both still in graduate school that a crossbred (or a breed made from other breeds) is like a cake and heterosis is just the icing on the cake. Icing makes a cake attractive but it is the cake and the ingredients that go into making it, that are important. If the ingredients (breeds and animals within breeds) are not the best you can still have heterosis but the cross may not have as much value.

The other thing to remember about heterosis is that it cannot be inherited; it has to be created but crossbred animals can be selected using records and EPD but the amount of hybrid vigor must be accounted for accurately.

I hope this makes for a better understanding of how heterosis comes about and how it can change with various crosses, and I have just used a few of many examples. The major benefit of heterosis is that it is cumulative over many traits and lifelong. Heterosis affects the adaptability, longevity, fertility and maternal ability (in females) throughout the animal's life and even affects the calves sired or produced by crossbred animals, even breeds that are combined from other breeds like the Santa Gertrudis because they still have retained heterosis (about 47%, the same as other 5/8 - 3/8 combination breeds).

As I have stated before, this is the beauty of Santa Gertrudis and other breeds developed from other breeds. You get to blend the best (and sometime the not-so-best if you are not careful) characteristics of the breeds you choose. In some breeds like the Santa Gertrudis there is a little mild inbreeding in the beginning to fix certain phenotypic characteristics like coat color but then you retain most of the better breed characteristics of both breeds plus a significant fraction of the heterosis of the cross. Not a bad combination! Most commercial cattle producers in the US could do with a little EAR, if not for the breed effects then just for the benefit of the heterosis! ♦



Productive purebred Santa Gertrudis female with purebred calf at side.



Oaks Csonka 99Z31 | Csonka x Oaks Ms Unitas 99U

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
2.7	2.9	36	66	22	39	8	1.25	0.51	0.19	0



Salacoa Bragg 23A22 | Bragg x SVF Garrett 23 U231

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
1	2.5	40	66	4	24	7.5	1.1	0.48	0	-0.005



Oaks Next Step 123A2 | Next Step x Oaks Ms NuffSaid 123Y

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
8.1	-1.1	26	55	8	21	8.4	0.8	0.38	-0.11	-0.003



TBF Bragg 94A | Bragg x GACC Ms Cadence 94S

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
1.1	3.7	48	77	12	36	7.6	0.8	0.74	0.01	0.005



Oaks Hombre 1302A13 | Hombre x Oaks Ms Csonka 1302T

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
7.2	0.8	30	50	13	28	8	1.2	0.27	-0.04	-0.003



Salacoa Guardian 332A11 | Guardian x SR Warrior Princess N332

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
3.3	1.8	36	70	22	40	6.2	1.4	0.44	0.06	-0.007



Oaks Csonka 435A1 | Csonka x TCB Kiowa Princess U435

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
-3.3	5.2	49	87	24	49	6.2	1.3	0.67	-0.01	-0.004



Salacoa Stonewall 23A24 | Stonewall x SVF Catawba 23 U129

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
8.5	-0.7	33	65	18	34	7.3	1	0.71	-0.01	0.007

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Oaks High Choice 99A1 | Swift x Oaks Ms Hombre 99X9

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
4.1	1.8	42	66	8	29	7.0	0.9	0.62	0.00	0.009



Salacoa Lambert 392A3 | Lambert x Ms Brinks New Era 392P51

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
0.8	1.5	31	54	8	24	5.2	0.4	0.61	0.36	0.005



Salacoa Patton 535A9 | Patton x Ms Brinks Lambert 535U9^{CV}

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
6.8	0.1	32	52	11	26	7.2	0.9	0.66	0.22	-0.008



Salacoa Stonewall 99A3 | Stonewall x SVF Ms 99P21

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	TM	CEM	SC	REA	IMF	FT
5.6	0.9	28	57	15	29	6.4	0.8	0.77	0.08	0.005



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Commercial cattlemen have numerous breed and breed combinations to consider when building or rebuilding the cowherd. Publications, websites, and countless other outlets tout the attributes of the various breeds and breed combinations available today. Often attempts are made to tie hide color to profitability. However, knowledgeable cattlemen understand that heterosis, not color, influences profitability. Years of research have continually shown that maximum hybrid vigor is obtained when mating animals of breeds that are completely unrelated, such as a British and/or Continental Breed with a breed containing *Bos indicus* bloodlines. Cattlemen looking for females that supply added heterosis with exceptional maternal traits do not need to look any farther than Santa Gertrudis. Not only does the Santa Gertrudis breed include *Bos indicus* in its genetic package, the breed was the first composite, a standardized and very predictable blend of Shorthorn and Brahman genetics. Santa Gertrudis genetics ensure that cattle will thrive in a wide variety of climates, from the hot and humid Southeast, to the arid drought prone Southwest. There is no better way for a commercial cattleman to capture or increase hybrid vigor than through the use of Santa Gertrudis genetics. There is no better foundation for the formation of a **PROFITABLE** commercial cow herd than the Santa Gertrudis F1 Female. Santa Gertrudis influenced females are becoming the commercial female of choice across the United States.

The Santa Gertrudis F1 female is extremely versatile and can be incorporated into a wide variety of breeding programs. She is known for her productivity and longevity. Santa Gertrudis influenced females are fertile, gentle, and most importantly consistent producers of calves that are viable and competitive in the beef industry. Santa Gertrudis influenced females are **PRODUCTIVE**, calving easily producing calves that gain quickly and are extraordinary feeders. University conducted test verify that Santa Gertrudis influenced cattle are efficient feeders that produce high quality lean carcasses. Recently, 1,000 head of Santa Gertrudis steers were evaluated in the National Steer Feed-out. The average daily gain was 3.49 lbs. with an average Warner-Bratzler Shear Force (tenderness) measurement of 6.25 lbs., a figure well under the 7 lbs. that consumers consider as tender.

Santa Gertrudis are profitable, productive, and **PREDICTABLE**. The Santa Gertrudis Breeders International genetic evaluation is one of the most comprehensive among the *Bos indicus* breeds and the only *Bos indicus* influenced breed with EPDs enhanced for all traits with genomic information. The association's evaluation system has been reviewed by the nation's leading animal geneticists and utilizes genotypes collected from the breed's leading sires and validated on 10K, 20K, and 50K SNP Chips. Thousands of ranch phenotypes and scan records collected over a 25 year period support the evaluation. SGBI's reliable genetic evaluation ensures that cattlemen can make sound selection decisions, identifying animals that will perform regardless of environmental conditions. Profitable-Productive-Predictable, Santa Gertrudis the complete genetic package.

John Ford
Executive Director



A BIG

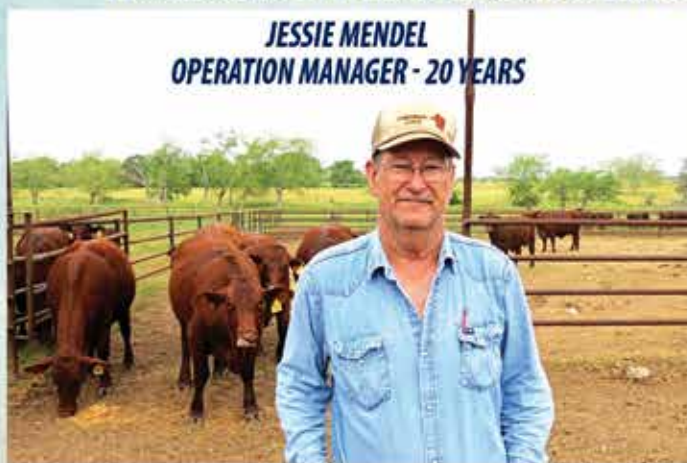
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Don't Let Pinkeye Make You See RED

By Jackie Nix, Animal Nutritionist, Ridley Block Operations



As we approach the hot summer months, more and more producers are dealing with the nuisance of pinkeye. Pinkeye is a highly infectious bacterial disease. Although pinkeye is nonfatal, it costs cattle producers over \$150 million per year. These expenses result from decreased weight gain, reduced milk production and treatment costs. Additionally, infected animals are worth less at sale time. Pinkeye is second only to scours/diarrhea in terms of diseases affecting calves.

CAUSES OF PINKEYE

While the bacteria *Moraxella bovis* is the main causative agent, other microorganisms such as *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma* and *Acholeplasma* or viruses such as the IBR virus can either predispose the eye to pinkeye or make the disease more severe.

Irritants to the eye make it more susceptible to development of pinkeye. Irritants include ultraviolet light, plants, dust and flies. Cattle lacking pigment around the eyes tend to be more susceptible to UV light irritation resulting in inflammation and infection. Plants provide irritation through release of pollen and chaff and also physical irritation through poking, especially in the seed-head stage. Dust is usually not a major factor for pastured cattle and is more relevant in confinement. Several species of flies (face flies, stable flies and house flies) also provide irritation and can actively carry the bacteria from animal to animal. Face flies have been shown to remain infected with *M. bovis* for up to 3 days after feeding on infected secretions. Pinkeye can also spread via physical animal to animal contact, especially in close quarters.

If left untreated, ulcerations can occur and can result in loss of the eye. This is particularly troubling for bull calves, as bulls rely on visual cues for detecting cows in heat. Research has shown that weaning weights can be reduced as much as 60 lbs per calf. Additionally, cattle with pinkeye are discounted an average of \$11.75 per CWT at the sale barn.

TREATMENT

M. bovis is susceptible to many antibiotics including oxytetracycline, penicillin and sulfonamides. Treatment involves handling cattle and either delivering an IM or SubQ injection or other direct eye treatments. As always, consult with your veterinarian prior to treatment. It bears mentioning that the new FSMA regulations will require prescription by a veterinarian for these drugs in the not so distant future. These drugs are available over-the-counter as it stands today.

PREVENTION

Given that treatment is expensive, prevention becomes even more important. The first means of prevention is to never bring infected animals to your farm in the first place through careful inspection prior to purchase. Also, a standard quarantine for new animals will help identify carriers and allow them to

be treated prior to introduction into the main herd. Commercial vaccines are available, (Consult with your veterinarian before embarking on a vaccination program.) but even vaccine manufacturers recommend environmental management and fly control in addition to vaccination. Other methods to help prevent pinkeye include proper mineral and vitamin nutrition including adequate levels of zinc and vitamin A. Additionally, regular clipping of pastures will not only remove seedheads from irritating animals' eyes, but will also increase the relative nutritional value of your pastures by increasing vegetative growth. And finally, fly control will go a long way to keep pinkeye from spreading throughout your herd.

FEED THROUGH FLY CONTROL

Rabon® Oral Larvicide is a nontoxic feed-through larvicide. Rabon® interrupts the lifecycle of the target flies by preventing larvae from developing into adults. Rabon® is not absorbed by the animal and safely passes through the digestive tract. There is no slaughter withdrawal and Rabon® can be safely fed to lactating and pregnant cows. Rabon® remains in the manure where it kills developing larvae on contact. Rabon® is the only feed-through fly control product to control horn flies, face flies, stable flies and house flies. As mentioned earlier, face flies, house flies and stable flies are known to transmit the *M. bovis* bacterium from cow to cow. Reducing the number of these flies will cut transmission, especially in a pasture situation. Another advantage of Rabon® is that it can be utilized for fly control for horses as well as cattle. Rabon® is environmentally safe and has no adverse effect on the dung beetle or other beneficial insects.

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SUMMARY

In summary, pinkeye is a costly bacterial disease for the cow-calf producer. Anything that irritates or damages the eye makes it more susceptible to infection by the *M. bovis* bacterium. Treatment involves costly antibiotics and stressful cattle handling, thus prevention is preferred. Prevention of pinkeye can be achieved through a combination of vaccination, environmental control and fly control. CRYSTALYX® and SWEETLIX® products containing Rabon® Oral Larvicide offer the superior fly control of Rabon® along with the proven intake and superior nutrition of CRYSTALYX® and SWEETLIX®. To learn more visit www.crystalyx.com or www.sweetlix.com to find the self-fed fly control supplement that works best for you. ♦

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Ranchland Investment Considerations - Long Term Investment

\$ 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 THIRD 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 previous articles, Investment Per Cow Unit, or Animal Unit, was referenced as a major financial consideration for “ranchers / land investors” since land is likely the major item on their balance sheet. This article will compare land investment per animal unit over a period of time for different areas of the Southwest U.S. From this comparison, a land investor can better realize the long term appreciation, inflation hedge, and a few other factors that affect the outcome of sound farm and ranch land investments.

During the 1960's, I had the opportunity to work in graduate studies under two highly respected ranch economist, Drs. James Gray at New Mexico State and Calvin Boykin at Texas A&M. The first project evaluated Economic Aspects of Registered Cattle Enterprises in New Mexico and compared these operations with commercial cow-calf ranches. The second study made An Economic Analysis of the Registered Beef Cattle Industry of South Texas and also included commercial cow-calf operations. Below are values taken from these studies and compared to current values for the same respective areas.

Investment per Animal Unit: Northeastern New Mexico 1965, South Texas 1967

	NE New Mexico /a	South Texas /b
Land Investment per AU:	\$1,391 (1965)	\$1,610 (1967)
Est. Land Investment per AU: /c	\$14,000 (2014)	\$30,000+ (2014)

/a. Commercial cow-calf ranches, 600 animal units, mostly deeded land.

/b. Commercial cow-calf ranches, 1000 animal units, all deeded land.

/c. Values based on current market data obtained from appraisers in the areas.

These values reflect some significant change in the balance sheets of ‘land investor/ranchers’ over a period of 49 years for the respective areas and present the opportunity to discuss some of the reasons for the changes. The general price per acre for northeast New Mexico ranch lands in 1965 was \$30 to \$40 per deeded acre. Today that same area commands \$300 to \$400 per acre. In South Texas, the market value of ranch lands in 1967, then used primarily for cattle, was \$100 to \$150 per acre. Today the same lands sell for \$2,000+ per acre with a different primary use and cattle production being a secondary use.

As a reminder, the ‘typical’ new ranch pickup in 1965 cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 (no A/C, no power steering, 4 in the floor, no GPS, no leather seats, single cab, etc.). Today, the typical new ranch pickup/truck costs \$50,000 to \$60,000 (diesel, leather, power and air, automatic, mapping system, crew cab, etc. and maybe hot and cold running water). ‘Reckon promoters/marketers have been working on us Cowboys! Calf prices in 1965 were \$25 per

cwt. steers, and \$23 per cwt. heifers. Slaughter cows brought \$15 per cwt. Today calves bring \$200+/- per cwt. and slaughter cows bring \$100+ per cwt. Replacement bred heifers or young cows brought \$250 to \$300 per head in 1965 and today the price is \$2,000 to \$3000 per head.



Interesting to notice that the above numbers have not changed much over the past fifty years for many of the ranch investment items, but they have an additional ‘0’ at the end, i.e.: investment per animal unit in land moved from about \$1,400 per AU in 1965 to \$14,000 in NE New Mexico; typical ranch truck from about \$5,000 in 1965 to \$50,000 today; replacement females were \$250 in 1965 and now \$2,500+/- Consider that during that period of time, real estate prices generally continued a steady trend upward, except for short term flat or slight down turns, cattle prices had significant up and down cycles but overall a large increase, and pickups were higher every year. Historically, farm and ranch land prices in most areas of the United States, have the least variance in price within each economic and political cycle and offer the most reliable long term appreciation of any asset on the typical ranch balance sheet.

South Texas ranch land values from 1967 to 2014 are a good example of the effect that a change in “highest and best use” of properties can have on value. In 1965, cattle production was the highest and best use of ranch land in South Texas and very few of the ranch operations had commercial hunting. Over the years, commercial hunting has become big business and now much of the area is high fenced, lodges have been built, extensive game management and some deer breeding operations are common, and many ranches have few or no livestock. It is recognized that oil and gas income in the South Texas area has been significant at times. The land values referenced above, only occasionally would include limited mineral interests in the prices as mineral interest is not usually conveyed with the surface in these areas.

In comparison, most lands in Northeastern New Mexico continue to have a highest and best use being for cattle production with only a few having recreational or other resource added value. The appreciation in value of these lands has been steady and reliable over the long term but only a few specific properties have realized a change in highest and best use and an above average price gain for the area.

The above examples are only a few that emphasize the importance of carefully planning the land investment aspect of overall ranching operations. Also, farm and ranch land investments need to be made with a relatively long term financial plan and goal. There are numerous factors that need to be considered when you focus on an area in which to acquire ranch land, the specific property and site, accurate evaluation of the carrying capacity (AU or Cow Units), current economic and political conditions both local and national, and particularly the time period for the planned land investment and the end objective of the investment.

Hopefully the data and comments included in this article will be of benefit in evaluating present ranch land investments, considerations for future land investments, and improve your ‘bottom line’. ❖

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Change to Cattlewomen Scholarship Submission

Attention JBBA Scholarship Applicants: If you are applying for the 2014 Beefmaster Cattlewomen Scholarship, please send your application along with other requested materials to Beefmaster Breeders Cattlewomen c/o Kathy Skinner, PO Box 277, Katy, TX 77492-0277.

Applications MUST be postmarked on or before June 13, 2014. For more information please contact the BBC Secretary/Treasurer by email at kskinner123@yahoo.com. Due to health reasons, please do not mail your applications to BBC President Bobbie Wall, which was listed on the application shared earlier this year. All correspondence MUST be sent to Kathy Skinner.

JBBA Pictures Wanted for National Convention Slide Show

The 2014 JBBA officers and directors are preparing a slide show to present at the evening meal at the 2014 National Convention on Friday, August 1, 2014 for JBBA's 30th anniversary. They are asking that all present JBBA members, former JBBA members and parents submit pictures to Allison

Wells at amw4412@aol.com. Pictures may be of anything JBBA related (nationals, heifer shows, field days, leadership seminars, etc.) Please submit pictures by July 1, 2014 and your picture may be used in the Friday night slide show. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Wells.

BBU and NCBA are Opposed to EPA Expansion

On Thursday May 8 the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold their first D.C. hearing on the "Waters of the U.S." proposed definition. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is opposed to this proposed rule and will submit a letter for the record as part of this hearing. Beefmaster Breeders United (BBU), along with several other state and national level agricultural organization signed this letter in opposition along with NCBA.

The letter, that is addressed to Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall, urged "Congress to stop the proposed expansion of federal authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and to limit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to unilaterally halt job-creating projects. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' recent activities will federalize our nation's waters and public and private lands, resulting in dramatic impacts on job creation and economic investment and growth."

The letter that was drafted and submitted by the NCBA Washington, D.C., office included the following excerpts...

"Nearly every sector of the economy – including agriculture, construction, housing, manufacturing, utilities, energy production, and transportation – requires Section 404 and other CWA permits to conduct their daily operations. Just as importantly, private property owners who want to develop their own land, as well as state and local governments building critical infrastructure, must also frequently obtain 404 permits. Twice the Supreme Court has affirmed that both the U.S. Constitution and the CWA place limits on federal authority over intrastate waters, and Congress has declined to alter that careful balance between federal and state regulation of waters. Yet EPA and the Corps are now attempting to substitute their own judgment for that of Congress, and to unlawfully expand the scope of federal jurisdiction beyond anything that has ever existed under the CWA."

"EPA has already provided two telling examples of what can happen to U.S. projects that require federal CWA permits. Notably, EPA for the first time ever recently used Section 404 to retroactively veto a valid CWA permit, thereby halting an on-going lawful operation. EPA then used Section 404 to prospectively veto another project before the companies involved could even apply for a permit, but after hundreds of millions of dollars had been spent in up-front capital expenditures. If EPA is allowed to continue in this manner, and indeed to expand its authority over more land, it will have a devastating impact on U.S. investment and job creation, as companies will not be able to rely on the rule of law in the United States and will not invest in U.S. projects."

"The undersigned organizations are committed to the protection and restoration of America's water resources. And while the environmental protections provided by the CWA are vital, so too is the rule of law and the ability of investors to rely on the U.S. permitting process. Congress must act to protect both by requiring federal agencies to recognize the legal limits to CWA authority, and ensuring that EPA exercises its CWA authority in a manner consistent with due process and fundamental fairness."

"It is critical that the federal government use the legally promulgated processes under the CWA and National Environmental Policy Act to make fair, informed decisions about job-creating projects. It is likewise vital that, once companies receive their permits, the companies – as well as the investors and employees relying on them – can rely on those permits to not be revoked at any time for any reason. Finally, it is extremely important that EPA and the Corps not be permitted to arrogate authority to themselves that Congress never intended."

Through signing this letter, BBU asked that the committee "stop EPA and the Corps from finalizing their proposed rule defining their authority under the CWA, and limit EPA's ability to act under Section 404 until after the NEPA and 404 environmental review processes are completed but before a permit is issued. Such limitations would provide for robust environmental protection, transparency and certainty for the regulated community, and economic investment and growth."

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UBB Field Day

GONZALES, TX - Guests from all around took advantage of the opportunity to attend and view the bulls as the United Braford Breeders hosted the Annual Braford Bull Field Day with Graham Land and Cattle Company in Gonzales, Texas on May 3rd. The attendees heard from Dr. Tom Shields of McNeese State University as he gave an

update of the current upbeat condition of all agricultural markets, shared about the importance of incorporating ultrasound into management practices, and also encouraged the attendees to explore new concepts to think on in bull and female selection to improve quality and profitability in their operations. From there, the guests were able to view the nearly 100 bulls to be offered in the upcoming Advancing the Braford Breed IV Sale on October 2nd in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The bulls began the UBB's Bull Marketing and Development Program with a 120 day gain test. They have since been turned out to pasture to continue maturing while being managed by the highly qualified team at Graham. The bulls in the program have all met strict criteria to be featured in the sale in October. This is the largest set of bulls to date in the program and also the most uniform in terms of excellent quality. The United Braford Breeders is excited to offer these outstanding group of bulls along with the bull consignors, our bull management team at Graham Land and Cattle Company, and our

partners, American Marketing Service. Save the date for the Advancing the Braford Breed IV Sale on October 2nd, 2014 and take advantage of this opportunity to advance your commercial herd to the next level by implementing Today's Breed: Braford. For more information on the bulls in the program visit our website: brafords.org



2014 AJBA "All American"

The American Junior Brahman Association (AJBA) will be hosting its 35th Annual "All American" National Junior Show at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center in West Monroe, Louisiana on June 23-28, 2014. The AJBA offers an all-around youth competition, awarding more than \$40,000 in prizes and \$14,000 in scholarships to AJBA members.

Junior exhibitors from across the nation will gather for the big event, with nearly 700 head of cattle expected for the main attraction. Juniors will exhibit their owned, bred and owned Brahman cattle, as well as owned Golden Certified/Certified F-1 females.

Matt Karish of Starkville, Mississippi, will begin judging Showmanship on Wednesday, June 25. Chad Breeding of Miami, Texas, will sort the cattle for the Bred and Owned Brahman Show at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, as well as the newly added F-1 Female show that is set to follow that afternoon. The Brahman female show will take place Friday, June 27 with the Brahman bull show following on Saturday, June 28; Brad Gonce of Buffalo, Texas will judge both.

Additionally, the annual event will include public speaking, sales talk, photography, poster design contest, showmanship, quiz bowl, autograph contest, scholarship interviews, queen and princess interviews, as well as plenty of opportunities for social activities amongst the junior members and families.

"The All American is the highlight of the summer for many Brahman families," says Meghan Reiners, AJBA Director of Youth Activities. "The summer show provides the opportunity to participate and compete in numerous activities that allow our youth to gain valuable skills, knowledge, and lifelong friendships."

The full schedule of events, accommodations and additional information can be found at brahman.org. For more information on the AJBA All American and other AJBA activities, contact Meghan Reiners at meghan@brahman.org or at 713-349-0854.



17th World Brahman Congress

The 2014 World Brahman Congress presented by the Brahman Breeders Society of SA was a resounding success! Planning, promoting and facilitating the Congress over the past 18 months were an enormous task but in retrospect the Congress Committee can truly relate to the popular saying "We love it when a plan comes together!"

Feedback reports from all over the country and overseas convey hearty congratulations and confirm that the recently held World Brahman Congress that took place in the country town of Parys in the Free State from 5 - 11 April 2014 was enthusiastically regarded as rewarding in every way. All the animal-related activities at the Afri- Dome, the dissemination of technical information at the technical Conference, the entertainment, the local day- and pre- and post- tours and the renowned South African hospitality were all appreciated and praised.

A total of over 500 persons, including 70 foreign and 80 SADEC visitors registered for the congress. The two venues, Khaya iBhubesi Conference Centre and the Afri- Dome Indoor Arena, selected for the Congress proved to be exactly what was required for such a prestigious event. The Afri- Dome Indoor Arena once again confirmed itself as a facility of choice for animal related activities, providing all the necessary structures to contribute to the success of this International event.

The World Brahman Federation meeting was held on Tuesday 8 April as well as an inaugural meeting of the International Brahman Breed Improvement Forum on Sunday 6 April. This was a historical event as Breed Societies /Associations present at the congress, along with a number of

Breed Headlines continued on page 22 ►

Breed Headlines continued from page 21.

other role players were gathered around the table. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss international collaboration on a number of common interests including international genetic evaluations and the furthering of genomics on an international level.

The 2014 World Brahman Congress officially commenced with the Welcome Cocktail on Sunday evening 6 April where everybody were welcomed and treated on the outstanding catering from Khaya iBhubesi. The

opening- and gala functions that also took places here were both presented with style and elegance regardless of the fact that evening functions had to be moved from the formal function venue into a marque tent shortly before the congress started due to the large number of congress attendees. At the Afri Dome the services of Union Caterers for lunches and evening dinners did not disappoint at all, in fact the ability to serve every one of our 500 guests with a perfect fillet steak on the Wednesday evening was commented very positively.

ABBA Promotes Brahman Influence Crossbreeding at F1 Field Day in Joplin, MO

Joplin, MO – The American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) offered educational and networking opportunities at their Four State F1 Field Day held at the Joplin Regional Stockyards on Saturday, May 10, 2014. Beef industry producers and breeders from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas gathered for a day of educational presentations on Brahman influence crossbreeding and open discussions on producer experiences with F1 cattle.

ABBA President Ricky Hughes, DVM of Donalson, Arkansas kicked the day off by welcoming all in attendance. Dr. Hughes said that this field day program in a non-traditional area is part of the greater outreach efforts of the ABBA to spread the word of Brahman genetics to the commercial cow world.

Nationally recognized USDA-MARC retired research leader of genetics and breeding research, Dr. Larry Cundiff, opened discussions with presenting the science of the F1 cow. Cundiff touched on the details of his studies on the traits of thirty-seven diverse cattle breeds and his discovery that crossbreeding can improve production and cattle survival in many areas. He also presented his findings that Brahman influenced cattle weaned off heavier calves, were more adaptable and produced longer than other breed crosses. He also concluded that the F1 cow and her female offspring made ideal cows for the four state area.

Chris Shivers, ABBA Executive Vice President, followed with an overview of the ABBA F1 & F1 Plus Certification Program and the premiums that were received as a result of producer participation.

The highlight of the day's activities was the producer panels where local cattlemen told of their experiences; which included Kelly Barnard of Madison, Kansas; Jesse Bolin of Walnut Grove, Missouri; James Bozeman of Malvern, Arkansas and Archie Ladd of Sparta, Missouri. All of which, told of how Brahman & Brahman influenced cattle work in their areas; especially in the Fescue Belt, increased their weaning weights, topped the markets when sold and are very easily handled. Archie Ladd summed it up best with saying, "without Brahman blood in my herd I would likely not be in business today."

Attendees also heard from Joplin Regional Stockyards Representative Chris Byerly on marketing the steers from both the F-1 cross and the progeny of the F-1 cow. Byerly talked of steers, notably from the F-1 cow,

topping his market as well as any market in the country. Additionally, he encouraged producers to utilize the F-1 cow due to her superiorities and the increased profitability of her offspring.

The last speaker of the day, Robert Bergner of Hitch Feeders I in Hooker, Oklahoma; noted that the Brahman influenced steers fed extremely well due to their efficiency, as well as hung a lean carcass that would hit the Choice grade. Bergner has fed a number of Brahman influenced cattle ranging from purebreds down to 1/8 blood.

J. D. Sartwelle, Jr., ABBA Vice President, who acted as program moderator, expressed "The first ever ABBA F1 Field Day in the four state area found a receptive audience that had a familiarity with F1 Brahman crosses and their progeny." Sartwelle continued with saying, "the program in the Show-Me State showed off the F1 cow and her abilities."

The ABBA thanks the generous sponsors with helping make this event such a success: American Brahman Review, American Hereford Association, Etta Cattle Company, Joplin Regional Stockyards, Positive Feed, LTD, RDG Marketing, and Sartwelle Brahman Ranch.

For more information on the ABBA F1 Program, visit brahman.org or contact Chris Shivers directly at cshivers@brahman.org or 713-349-0854.



Pictured L-R (top row): Dean Galbraith, Arnold Saunders, Chris Byerly, Milton Charanza, Robert Bergner, Chris Shivers, Jesse Bolin, Kelly Barnard, James Bozeman and Dr. Ricky Hughes.

Pictured L-R (sitting): Archie Ladd, J.D. Sartwelle, Jr. and Dr. Larry Cundiff



Quail Creek Brangus Holds Strong Sale

CULLMAN, AL - Quail Creek Brangus owners, Johnny and Donna Vines, hosted their annual "Cut Above" Sale on March 15, 2014 at the Cullman Stockyards in Cullman, Alabama. Buyers from 11 states showed their confidence in the Quail Creek program and the programs of the Quail Creek Brangus sale partners.

\$8,675. Creating quite a buzz in the barn were eight open heifers that averaged \$4769. Included in the overall average were 25 bulls that sold for an average of \$4538. Buyers represented the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

The Quail Creek Sale Partners included: Clover Ranch, Marietta, GA; L&W Cattle Company, Mocksville, NC; Galloway Brangus Farms, Huntsville, AL; EC Brangus, Mocksville, NC; Cliff and Judy Stewart, Leighton, AL; Addison Brangus Farms, Winfield, AL; McCreary Farms,

A full house crowd witnessed 125 Brangus lots average \$4195. The sale grossed \$524,450. Topping the sale were four donor females that averaged

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Doug Williams of Mocksville, NC managed the sale. Lakin Oakley of Dekalb, TX was the auctioneer. For more information contact Quail Creek Brangus at (205) 594-5307 or online at www.QuailCreekBrangus.com.

West Coast Brangus Hosts Field Day in California

On a beautiful spring day in Northern California, the West Coast Brangus Breeders Association (WCBBA) hosted their Spring 2014 Field Day May 3, 2014, at the University of California at Chico's 800-acre Paul L. Byrne Agricultural Teaching and Research Center.

Jason Bates, IBBA's Director of Field Services and Commercial Marketing, represented the association and introduced the expansion of IBBA programs. Of particular interest were reporting of genetic conditions. He also introduced the expansion of programs to increase premiums on commercial calves along with registered cattle. Everyone received samples of new ads, brochures, and pamphlets that are part of the newest promotional campaign. His participation and the support of IBBA was very much appreciated.

Dr. Patrick Doyle led the group through the Beef Unit, introducing his students who explained the various cattle research studies. Of particular interest was the study on feed efficiency using the Gro-Safe feed tracking system. WCBBA members peppered the students with questions — probably a great prep for finals! The group moved from the feed bunks to the computer analysis station where every aspect of the cattle and their feed could be viewed and analyzed.

The Meats Laboratory put the members to the test as Dr. Doyle had prepared two carcasses for evaluation. He led a lively — and cold in the freezer — discussion on yield and grade in light of the changing tastes and preferences of the American consumer. Dr. Doyle's background in beef performance programs, animal breeding and genetics, and EPD development brought a broad appreciation for the "pasture to plate" concept as the group performed tenderness tests on meat samples.

Photographer Wes Schultz, the official photographer for WCBBA and volunteer photographer for CalFire, gave the luncheon presentation on ranch photography. He emphasized the need to use an easy point-and-shoot camera that you can carry in your pocket to capture special moments or to take "beauty shots" of bulls for sale. Not everyone has a professional photographer who can come to the ranch to take those spectacular pasture

photos, and with a little planning the rancher can take some pretty good shots anyway. He recommends: take lots of shots and choose the best one, read the manual and make sure your camera is set for optimum use, turn off the flash and use the highest resolution possible.



Dr. Paul Mennick, owner of Pacific International Genetics, Los Molinos, CA entertained the group with stories about his work around the world. Dr. Mennick not only treats cattle, but horses and other large animals, as a specialist in reproduction and embryo transfer. He led an extensive discussion on the value and practicality of sexed semen in the nation's cattle herd in anticipation of eventual herd expansion. Members appreciated his recommendations on maintaining fertility in the herd while enduring this extensive drought. Special attention to mineral supplementation topped his list of must-haves at a time when both the quantity and quality of feed is compromised.

With "sustainability" as the new buzzword, a group of WCBBA members continued the meeting at the 50-acre Sierra Nevada Brewery which sends its spent brewer's grains to feed the CSU Chico cattle, and in turn, serves the CSU Chico beef in its restaurant. Virtually everything at the brewery is recycled or reused including the C02 from the brewing process and the cooking oil from the kitchen. It is a model of sustainability as the 90-minute tour demonstrated. By using solar energy, only 21% of the total power must be bought from outside. Sierra Nevada is a model for sustainability ideas from composting and biodiesel from its own facility, to tending its Estate Garden for kitchen herbs and landscape plants. All of that beef talk made everyone hungry, and the meeting concluded with — what else? Dinner!

Powerful Miss America Offering Draws Buyers from 8 States

The Texas Brangus Breeders Miss America Sale at Tenroc Ranch during TBBA's Annual Convention was a huge success and continued to build upon the best traditions of the Texas Brangus Breeders. The Miss America Sale continues to be a premier offering in Texas and proved a strong draw as 48 buyers from 8 states participated in owning these elite females and herd sires. Strong demand for Brangus females and bulls continued to set the trend for the Brangus spring sale season.

The top selling female, at \$10,000, was Lot 10, CB Ms Onstar 222Z3, consigned by Cavender Brangus. Sired by Onstar and out of a full sister to the dam of Stonewall, she posted balanced EPDs and was safe to the popular Landau. The purchaser was Draggin M Ranch, Eldorado Arkansas.

Don Thomas and Sons, Madison, Mo paid \$9,400 for the ½ interest and full possession in the second high seller, Lot 42, Skyhawks FDR, consigned by Skyhawk Brangus, Tyler, Texas. This powerful Presidente son had seen a very successful show career where he won or was reserve in division at every show in which he was entered.

Lot 7, Ms Brinks Lambert 541T66, was the third high selling female at \$7,500 and purchased by Westall Ranches, Arabela, New Mexico. She is a daughter of Lambert and out of 541P40. She posts EPDs ranking in the breed's top 2% REA and 4% IMF. She was consigned by 3 Bar S, Longview, Texas.

Breed Headlines continued on page 24 ►

Breed Headlines continued from page 23.

Garry Clem, Jacksonville, Texas paid \$6,800 to own Lot 33, DMR Heritage 23A, the fourth High selling female. This fancy open heifer posted EPDs ranking in the breed's top 10% for YW EPD. She was consigned by Draggin M Ranch.

Doguet's Diamond D, Poteet, Texas consigned the fifth high seller as Lot 28B fetched the bid price of \$6,500. This big time September show heifer prospect is an ET heifer sired by Hercules and out of a Presidente daughter. She was purchased by Mark Whipple, Burton, Texas.

- 1 Donation Red Brangus Heifer grossed \$3,000 to average \$3000
- 1 Fall Brangus 3N1 grossed \$4,500 to average \$4,500
- 4 Spring Calving Brangus Cows grossed \$16950 to average \$4,237
- 6 Spring Bred Brangus Heifers grossed \$29,000 to average \$4,833
- 9 Fall Bred Heifers grossed \$38,800 to average \$4,311
- 2 Semen Lots grossed \$1,375 to average \$867.50
- 1 Bull grossed \$9,400 to average \$9,400

38 Total Brangus Lots Grossed \$148,625 to average \$3,911

GENETRUST at Cavender's Sale Report

A full house of bidders and buyers gathered on April 26th for the largest offering of registered Brangus females presented thus far in 2014 held at Cavender's Neches River Ranch just west of Jacksonville, TX. The tremendously consistent offering, including a large number of open heifers, was readily absorbed as the demand for registered and commercial GENETRUST Brangus cattle continues to escalate.

Earning the honor of the high seller for the day was Lot 21, a fall 3N1 pair. Appreciated for her individual performance, unique EPD profile and production ability, MS DMR Csonka 99Y9 from Draggin' M Ranch was selected by Oscar Juarez and Clover Ranch of Marietta, Georgia for \$9,750. Her daughter, Lot 21A, MS DMR Coronado 99A13, was a moderate framed, deep sided fall heifer calf and commanded \$3,500 to Roger Smith of Bennington, OK giving Lot 21 a \$13,250 total valuation. Following closely behind was Lot 80, SF Miss Lambert 541W14, bred by Schmidt Farms. While this female boasted breed leading carcass and growth numbers, equally impressive was the tremendous heifer calf at side sired by OnStar, all of which led to her being the \$12,500 selection of Cheramie Viator, Childress, TX. Leading off the sale as Lot 33 was the proven donor, Oaks Ms Singletary 133T, consigned by Cavender Brangus. This matriarch, widely recognized as one of her sire's most productive daughters, has consistently shown the ability to produce offspring with more performance and carcass merit than their contemporaries. A true power cow, she landed in the hands of David Wood, Double W Ranch, Houston, Texas for \$10,000.

At the end of the day 119.5 registered Brangus females averaged \$4,036 going to buyers that stretched further north than I-70, as far east as the Atlantic Ocean and everywhere in between. The registered female volume buyer was Johnny Vines of Quail Creek Brangus, Steele, Alabama, adding eleven great females to his outstanding herd.

Known for the outstanding cattle the Cavender's Neches River Ranch consistently produces through GENETRUST sales as well as Stock Show sales throughout Texas, the commercial female sale following the registered female portion was met with exuberance and a great number of repeat customers. Topping a tremendous set of spring calving pairs was a consignment from longtime GENETRUST customer, Kristen Kastner of Sinton, Texas. This uniform set of eight pair commanded \$3,550/pair and were selected by repeat customer Jack Nichols of San Augustine, Texas. Leading the way in the bred heifer division was a package of ten stout made females from GENETRUST customer Frank Johnston, Letohatchee, Alabama. This high performance set was purchased for \$3,500/head by another repeat buyer, Sam Glass, Gonzales, Texas, who always has an eye for the good ones. Striking again in the open heifer offering, Sam Glass selected a package of 6 head from GENETRUST partners Genesis Ranch

and Johnston Farms for \$2,800/head. All in all 103 Spring Pairs averaged \$2,983, 148 Bred Heifers averaged \$2,024, and 86 open heifers averaged \$1,784 to make 337 commercial Brangus females average \$2,236.

Bill and Gail Davis will roll out their unrivaled hospitality October 31-November 1, 2014 at Chimney Rock Cattle Company for the next offering of GENETRUST genetics where 150 Brangus and UltraBlack bulls, 120 registered Brangus females and 300 commercial Brangus females will be offered for appraisal. Additionally, the GENETRUST crew will be back at the Neches River Ranch December 6, 2014 where 220 Brangus and UltraBlack bulls, 400 commercial Brangus females, and 40 Charolais bulls will be available. 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 Brangus Female Averages

- 9.5 3N1's \$7,473
- 1 Bred Cow \$4,000
- 25 Bred Heifers \$3,740
- 70 Open Heifers \$3,408
- 9 Spring Calving Pair \$4,528
- 5 Proven Donor \$7,550
- Total 119.5 Registered Brangus Females \$4,036

Commercial Brangus Female Averages

- 103 Spring Calving Pairs \$2,983
- 148 Bred Heifers \$2,024
- 86 Open Heifers \$1,784
- Total Commercial Brangus Females \$2,256



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SGBI Releases Genomic EPDs

The Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Board of Directors announced that the breed's Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), released April 2014, were enhanced for all traits with genomic information. Santa Gertrudis becomes the first and currently the only *Bos indicus* influenced breed to offer this cutting edge genetic improvement tool to association members and their commercial customers.

Following the Board announcement, SGBI Executive Director John Ford stated, "This is an exciting time for Santa Gertrudis Breeders International. SGBI members understand the value that this technology provides to the breed and more importantly to the association's cattle buying customers in the commercial sector of the industry. The addition of DNA markers into the breed's EPD calculations along with pedigree and progeny data ensures that cattlemen have the most accurate information available in order to make sound profitable selection decisions."

The breed's DNA based genetic evaluation system, developed for the association by John Genho of Livestock Genetic Services, Woodville, Virginia, has been reviewed by the nation's leading animal geneticists and utilizes genotypes collected from the breed's most prominent sires and validated on 10K, 20K, and 50K SNP Chips. Thousands of ranch phenotypes and scan records collected over a 25 year period serve as the foundation of the SGBI genetic evaluation. Under Genho's guidance, Livestock Genetic Services has managed genetic evaluations for over 100,000 head of commercial cattle during the past 10 year period. Livestock Genetic Services' experience developing genetic evaluation programs for *Bos indicus* influenced cattle combined with support from long time industry leader King Ranch, Inc. provided Santa Gertrudis Breeders International with the

platform needed for development of a comprehensive DNA based genetic evaluation. Ford and Genho acknowledged the support provided by King Ranch, Inc. allowed the association and Livestock Genetic Services to fast-track the GE-EPD project. Both pointed out that King Ranch, Inc. has always been a leader in the beef community and it is not surprising that they were an early adopter of genomics based animal selection

Genho stated "In the SGBI evaluation, a genomic test collected on an animal at birth provides as much accuracy as an ultrasound record collected on that animal as a yearling. The advantage is that this accuracy can be built earlier in an animal's life and applies to all traits with current EPDs." Ford noted that Santa Gertrudis cattle have always been known for being productive and profitable in the most challenging of environmental conditions and now with the release of genomic EPDs the breed's performance is the most predictable of the *Bos indicus* influenced breeds. Results from recent sales indicate that cattlemen value the information provided by the association's DNA based evaluation system and readily utilize it in making animal selection decisions.

Breed Headlines continued on page 26 »

**Over 8,000 cattlemen &
cattlegirls read The EAR each
month, & the list is growing!**

SGBI Debuts Marketing Campaign

A-Train Communications and Marketing has been selected by Santa Gertrudis Breeders International to assist the association in the development and implementation of an advertising campaign that highlights the breeds move to a DNA based genetic evaluation. The firm will develop various advertisement strategies throughout the year stressing the value and the benefits Genomic Enhanced EPDs provide to SGBI's cattle buying customers. A-Train Communications and Marketing, based out of Ft. Col-

lins, Colorado, will work closely throughout the year with the creative team and publishers of Santa Gertrudis USA in order to effectively expand the breed's footprint in the commercial sector of the beef industry. The debut campaign, **PROFITABLE-PREDICTABLE-PRODUCTIVE**, is developed around the added accuracy and reliability of the breed's GE-EPDs with a focus on the increased level of predictability that cattlemen now have for making profitable herd sire and replacement female selections.

Spring 2014 SGBI Trait Leaders Posted

Listed from the spring 2014 GE-EPD download are the top 3 proven Santa Gertrudis sires for 5 SGBI traits. A complete list of proven sire trait leaders and young sire trait leaders can be found on the SGBI web site at www.santagertrudis.com

Proven Sire Trait Leaders for Birth Weight

1. Myers Farms 306/6
2. Polled Chief 508
3. Macho 2419

Proven Sire Trait Leaders for Weaning Weight

1. Briggs 031/6
2. Copperhead 214
3. Hunts DHF Missile 961

Proven Sire Trait Leaders for Maternal Weaning Weight

1. KR N6/5
2. CB 8333
3. Big Man 0-63

Proven Sire Trait Leaders for Yearling Weight

1. RDF Sancho 7-216
2. SCC Grid Maker 820
3. Hatchet 150

Proven Sire Trait Leaders for Carcass Traits

1. KR 659/06
2. Briggs 023/5
3. Hammetts 118/1

J.B. "Dick" Vesper Scholarship Drive

Former Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Presidents Jane Wendt and John Kiker are organizing an effort to raise money for a scholarship to be presented in memory of longtime breeder and junior show supporter Dick Vesper. Anyone interested in supporting the development of a scholarship recognizing Mr. Vesper for his support of the junior program are asked to forward their contribution to:

The National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation
P.O. Box 1257, Kingsville, Texas

Please note that the donation is for the development of the Dick Vesper Youth Scholarship.

Industry News

EPA and Army Corps Proposal Expands Clean Water Act Jurisdiction

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) proposed an expansion of their federal authority over "waters of the United States." The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is deeply concerned by this vast overreach by the EPA and the Administration. Under this expansion, essentially all waters in the country would be subject to regulation by the EPA and the Corps, regardless of size or continuity of flow.

"This is a step too far, even by an agency and an administration notorious for over-regulation," said NCBA President Bob McCan, Victoria, Texas cattleman. "This proposal by EPA and the Corps would require cattlemen like me to obtain costly and burdensome permits to take care of everyday chores like moving cattle across a wet pasture or cleaning out a dugout. These permits will stifle economic growth and inhibit future prosperity without a corresponding environmental benefit. This proposed regulation and the burdensome federal permitting scheme will only hinder producers' ability to undertake necessary tasks and, in turn, result in an exodus of ranchers from the field."

Almost all activities on our open land will now touch a "water of the

United States" under the expanded definition. For the first time, ditches are included in the definition of a "tributary" and now will come under federal jurisdiction. Activities near a jurisdictional ditch will now require a federal permit. Many cattle operations will be required to get Sec. 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, Sec. 404 Dredge and Fill permits or Sec. 311 Spill Prevention Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) spill plans.

"NCBA policy states we oppose expanding federal authority over non-navigable waters," McCan said. "This proposal flies in the face of the Constitution and the Supreme Court's interpretation of the EPA and Corps' jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. It takes the authority Congress granted EPA beyond the scope of Congressional intent. This is an illegal act by the EPA, and we will defend the rights of our members and producers."

The proposal will be open for public comment for 90 days. NCBA will submit comments on behalf of the over 175,000 producers it represents. - BeefUSA.org

Industry News continued on page 28 ▶▶



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Wolves of Wall Street: Poised to Gobble Up U.S. Farmland?

Enthusiasm for agriculture as an investment “borders on speculative mania,” and “the wolves of Wall Street are eyeing millions of acres of U.S. farmland that will soon come up for sale, much of which has been in the hands of family farmers for generations.”

That’s from a report by the Oakland Institute, *Down on the Farm — Wall Street: America’s New Farmer*.

Institutional investors — including hedge funds, private equity, pension funds, and university endowments — “have trained their sights on America’s agricultural infrastructure,” says Lukas Ross, an Oakland Institute Fellow and author of the report. “If they succeed in consolidating control over our land and infrastructure, this new class of land barons could imperil our nation’s food supply.”

Investors are increasingly interested in capitalizing on the run-up in the value of private equity assets, the report says. So they’re lining up to purchase some 400 million acres that will become available over the next two decades. That’s half of all U.S. farmland.

One industry leader estimates that \$10 billion in institutional capital is looking for access to U.S. farmland, but that number could easily rise as investors seek to ride out uncertain financial times by placing their money in the perceived safety of agriculture.

“In the next 20 years,” the report says, “as the U.S. experiences an unprecedented crisis of retiring farmers, there will be ample opportunity” for acquisition by investors to expand their holdings, as an estimated 400 million acres change generational hands.”

Of the estimated \$1.8 trillion worth of farmland across the country, investors believe \$300 billion to \$500 billion is of “institutional quality” — a combination of factors including size, water access, soil quality, and location.

“This makes domestic farmland a huge and largely untapped asset class,” and “frequently these buyers enter the market with so much capital that their funds are practically limitless compared to the resources of most farmers.

“This is the beginning ... of a land rush that could literally change who owns the country and our food and agriculture systems ... (creating) a perfect storm of global and national trends that could converge to permanently shift farm ownership from family businesses to institutional investors and other consolidated corporate operations.”

Further contributing to the institutionalization of agriculture are tensions resulting from the use of land to grow crops for biofuels, a higher demand for animal feeds to increase meat production for a growing global middle class, and fewer obstacles to speculation in the agricultural futures market as a result of deregulation.

“When these factors combine to increase crop prices, it sends a powerful price signal to investors of all kinds that farmland itself is a winning investment,” the report says.

—By Hembree Brandon in *Farm Press Blog*

Nebraska Passes Texas as Nation’s Largest Cattle Feeding State

(May 20, 2014): BrownfieldAgNews reports:

Nebraska has widened its lead over Texas as the top cattle-feeding state.

The most recent cattle on feed report showed Nebraska with 2.49 million head on feed compared to Texas’ 2.43 million.

Pete McClymont, executive vice president of Nebraska Cattlemen, says being number one is a great source of pride for the state’s cattle producers.

“We’re proud that we have surpassed Kansas and Texas in terms of cattle-on-feed numbers,” McClymont says. “We’re the place to be in the beef industry, not just in the U.S., but around the world.”

Nebraska surpassed Texas in cattle on feed numbers, for the first time, back in February.

—*AgriMarketing.com*

Statement by NCBA President Bob McCan on the Announced Bilateral Trade Agreement between Australia and Japan

WASHINGTON — In response to the announcement of a Bilateral Trade Agreement reached between Australia and Japan, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) President Bob McCan, a Victoria, Texas cattleman issued the following statement:

“NCBA is deeply concerned that the Bilateral Trade Agreement between Japan and Australia does not call for full tariff elimination. This Bilateral Agreement undermines the long-standing goals and principles that are the base of

the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This development only pushes the high-standing ideals of TPP further out of reach for all countries involved, and it is not a move that U.S. beef producers can support. The TPP has been referred to as a 21st century agreement, but this Bilateral Agreement is from the 20th century playbook and will not serve to foster open trade and certainly will not benefit consumers and producers globally.”

—*BeefUSA.org*

Research Review Looks at Beef Productivity in Relation to Selecting for Marbling

A new research paper debunks the myth the carcass quality must come at the expense of maternal function.

Virginia animal scientists reviewed nearly seventy individual studies in an effort to answer the question: has selection for marbling hurt cow herd productivity?

“In a nutshell what we found is that no it has not, and the marbling has a very smaller, if not insignificant, relationship with most of the traits that we associate with cowherd productivity,” says Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech.

The work examines the relationships between marbling and traits like scrotal circumference, heifer puberty and calving ease, finding no correlation.

In general, as marbling increases so does no production, the authors say, but expected progeny differences and indexes allow ranchers to make selections that fit their environment.

“I think the take home message, as we as we use the various tools to ... come up with answers is balanced trait selection,” Greiner says, based on market demands and consumer satisfaction data. “But we also know that there’s a variety of traits which impact our bottom line,” he says.

Keeping all traits in mind does not mean that you can’t make directional changes, however. I think if you look at the tools that we have available

through sire summary and identify bulls which will take us in a certain direction in trade simultaneously those bulls are available,” Greiner says.

Producers can expect to see more directional change in carcass traits, which are highly heritable as compared to those reproductive traits, he says.

To read the full study on selection for marbling and its impact on maternal traits by Jason Smith, Ph.D. Candidate, Virginia Tech and Greiner, visit the CAB Research and White paper site.

—*BeefProducer.com*

Industry News continued on page 30 ►►

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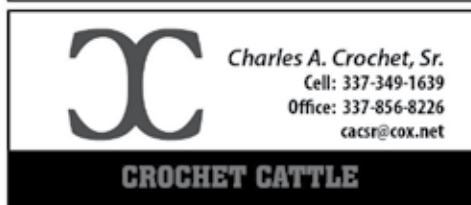
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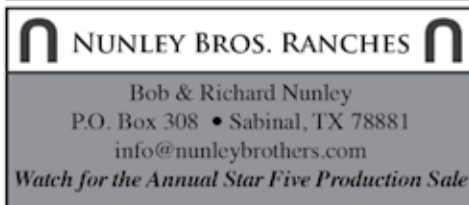
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Industry News continued from page 28.

More Arguments Heard in Country of Origin Labeling Suit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Monday heard argument en banc in American Meat Institute v. USDA.

While a three-judge panel had affirmed the district court's denial of a preliminary injunction on the implementation of the revised Country of Origin Labeling regulations, the panel had noted that one issue might warrant rehearing en banc. The Court scheduled today's hearing as a result, the National Farmers Union explained.

The parties' positions before the Court are essentially the same as what was presented to the panel although additional briefing was sought by the Court on the reach of a certain Supreme Court decision in the First Amendment area. In question is whether COOL advances a government interest.

National Farmers Union, along with fellow intervenors the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, American Sheep Industry Association and Consumer Federation of America, has participated at both the district court and at the D.C. Circuit supporting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's revised COOL regulation

and opposing the preliminary injunction request of the plaintiffs/appellants.

NFU President Roger Johnson argues the revised COOL regulation is an "important step in providing consumers improved information on the origin of the meat products they buy, and it reduces consumer confusion."

"The information required by the regulation to be provided is factual and noncontroversial," he said. "I am hopeful that the full Circuit will affirm the panel's prior decision and continue to deny the preliminary injunction requested by appellants."

COOL, which went into effect on Nov. 23, requires that meat products are clearly labeled with where the originating animal was born, raised and slaughtered. NFU and other supporters say the rule provides customers with additional product information, while opponents say it will cause a rift between the U.S. and trading partners Canada and Mexico.

—BeefProducer.com

THE EAR Calendar

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

June

- 7 Southern Alliance BMG Sale - Cullman, AL
- 7 Carolinas Brahman Sale - Clemson, SC
- 21 Southern Cattle Company's Best of All Worlds Sale - Marianna, FL**
- 26 Moreno Ranch's All-American Summer Sale - West Monroe, LA
- 28 Jones Farm & Cottage Farm Southern Tradition XIV Sale - Savannah, TN
- 18 Town Creek Farm Bull & Commercial Bred Heifer Sale - West Point, MS
- 18 Central Texas BBA Beef "On" Forage Bull Sale - Brenham, TX
- 19 Nunley Brothers "One Ranch Raised" Commercial Female Sale - Sabinal, TX
- 24-26 Simbrah Synergy VII Sale - Giddings, TX
- 25 Miller Brangus Sale - Waynesboro, TN
- 25 Carr & Others Fall Sale - Memphis, TN

August

- 4-6 TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course - College Station, TX
- 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**
- 4 Painted Springs Smith & Wesson Influenced Sale - Thompson Station, TN
- 4 Isa Cattle Co. Performance Tested bull Sale - San Angelo, TX
- 10-11 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
- 17 Little Creek Farms & Friends Black Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 17 Briggs Commercial Female & Bull Sale - Victoria, TX**
- 18 Tri-Star Sale - Victoria, TX**
- 18 Doguet Diamond D Ranch Sale - Poteet, TX

Oct 31- GENETRUST at Chimney Rock - Concord, AR
Nov 1

November

- 1 President's Council Sale - Memphis, TN
- 8 Heart of Texas Beefmaster Sale - Groesbeck, TX
- 8 Louisiana BBA Cowboy Classic Sale - Lake Charles, LA
- 14-15 World Series of Brangus Sale - Palo Pinto, TX
- 15 Branch Ranch Brangus Sale - Mansfield, LA
- 15 Stephen F. Austin State Univ. & Friends Beefmaster Sale - Nacogdoches, TX
- 22 Alabama Brangus Breeders Anns. Bull Sale - Uniontown, AL
- 22 Collier Farms Performance Bull Sale - Brenham, TX

December

- 6 GENETRUST at Cavender's - Jacksonville, TX**
- 13 Tom Brothers Ranch Bull Sale - Campbellton, TX

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This 7-year-old cow with her 2013 bull calf in this picture was photographed by a wildlife biologist in May of 2013, just after the first rain was received in South Texas at the end of, arguably, one of the worst droughts ever. Before this picture was found in December of 2013 and before weaning in this pasture took place on 9/18/13, analysis of a database of genomic-enhanced EPDs coupled with analysis of over 900 DNA samples from 2013 calves identified this bull calf as a candidate for gain test evaluation.

The bull calf posted a 631 adjusted weaning weight from a cow that weighed 1125 lbs. on the same day and was palpated pregnant. After passing gain test evaluation, the bull calf is now in the high desert of Oregon working to produce Santa Gertrudis/SimAngus composites with another progressive breeder.

Although the discovery of the picture was accidental, the system for selection and subsequent profitability behind the cow and calf pictured is no accident. King Ranch adopted one-step DNA relational analysis in the Fall of 2012 and will continue to move forward based on the truth and success.

If you like the picture and related story for this one 2013 bull as much as we do, you will really like the bulls gracing the pastures of King Ranch.

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