



E-Newsletter

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**Texas Brangus
Breeders
Association**

Letter from the TBBA President

Dear TBBA Member,

The summer is almost over and here in my part of Texas we are finally getting some rain. My grass was nearly what it was last year and my tanks were almost dry. The 3" rain we got Thursday night came fast and filled the tanks and our grass looks a lot better.

An omission was made to the Futurity winners that were posted last week and it was the winners of the group classes. I am proud to announce that Skyhawk Brangus was awarded both Junior and Senior Get of Sire classes with Skyhawks Presidente and the Produce of Dam was also awarded to Skyhawks Ms Iron Farm 197T.

Pam and I just returned from the Beef 706 course at Texas A&M and we were very impressed with the program there. There were eight (8) steers that were harvested just before we arrived and two (2) live that were to be harvested after they were evaluated. The 2 live were a really nice Brangus and a crazy Charolais. The group figured the Charolais would be a dark cutter, but he escaped prior to being killed and was running around the campus like a wild teenager. Long story short, we never found out if he was a dark cutter.

This short course was both an educational and interesting experience and paid for by the Beef Check off Program. I was disappointed in the number of TBBA attendees and know your busy lives and the stress of the economy and drought had an effect on your decision not to attend, however this is a course that needs to be in every beef producer's resume.

We ended the 2 days with a tour of Sexing Technology on Hwy 6, Navasota, TX. It is a bull stud facility with semen sexing equipment, bull development facility, embryo transfer facility, and one of the leading cattle export facilities in the US. Their bull development facility has a computerized system of recording the actual feed consumed by each animal and thus recording the cost per pound of gain per animal. This data could lead to a feed efficiency EPD. I don't want to appear to push this business as there are other facilities such as Brad

P.O. Box 690552
San Antonio, TX
78269

210-558-0800

txbrangus.org



Barrett's Bull and Heifer development Center that will accommodate your needs. I know many of you have bulls that are very good and you do not have the time or facilities to develop them. With breeding age bulls being in demand, these are options for those that have this dilemma.

The amendments to the By-Laws of the TBBA have approved and are posted on the TBBA web site. Thank you for your votes.

A nominating committee will be formed for new directors at our next Board meeting. We will have four (4) members whose term will expire this year. If you are interested in becoming and serving on the Board, please contact me at skyhawkbrangus@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Russ Williamson President

West Nile Virus Hits Texas

A potentially serious, sometimes fatal illness spread by mosquitoes is speeding across the Lone Star State.

Many workers who work outdoors are particularly susceptible to the West Nile Virus (WNV). Mainly transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes, humans and other mammals can be infected. The virus also can cause severe disease and death in horses.

Some 527 human WNV infections have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) ArboNET this year, with the highest concentration in the southwest region, especially East Texas and Louisiana. As of Aug. 7, Texas has recorded three deaths and more neuroinvasive diseases than all other states combined.

The centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggest the following tips for preventing WNV:

- * Prevent mosquito bites. When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package.
- * Avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn. This is when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outdoors, be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times.
- * Prepare your home. Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- * Get rid of standing water. Empty excess water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes, and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

For more information, review the CDC's West Nile fact sheet at

-Release by Texas Farm Bureau

'Decision Time' for Cattle Restocking

Texas ranchers considering restocking options should think profitability first and foremost before writing a check, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

Stan Bevers, AgriLife Extension economist at Vernon, told producers at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course in College Station that the outlook for beef cattle prices is positive given current supply and demand.

"The U.S. calf crop is at 34 million compared to 46 million during the 1981 period," Bevers said. "The next couple of years the calf crop, including dairy calves, is projected to be at 32 million to 33 million. What's feedlot capacity in this country? That's a hard number to come up with, it's not recorded anyway."

Making some assumptions, you'll come up with 38 to 42 million head.

"Feedlots are going to have to chase calves that are fewer and fewer and now deal with higher prices for corn and roughages. Do what you can do to hold onto what you've got as best you can because you will be rewarded."

That, added with a positive outlook for cattle prices over the next couple of years due to supply and demand, should aid the decision-making process.

"If I choose to restock, I want some assurance of that female giving me a calf each of the next two years," Bevers said. "I think we will have pretty good prices for the next two to three years. I want to be in the game."

Looking at Food and Agricultural Research Policy Institute projections, beef cattle prices are forecast to continue a steady climb upward near \$170 per hundredweight by 2014. Bevers said cattle prices have seen some softness lately in price due to the uncertainty of the current corn crop. However, there will be a larger corn crop in the future and national cattle inventory levels are at their lowest since the 1950s, which signals high prices for the next couple of years.

When ranchers consider restocking, Bevers said it's important to consider the cost of the initial investment, annual income the investment will generate, and the salvage value at the end of the useful life of the investment.

"Collectively, is she a good investment?" Bevers said, is the

question each producer should ask.

Some factors Bevers said to consider when looking at potential replacement cows are:

- Annual cow costs. These are \$588.22, according to Standardized Performance Analysis.
- Weaning percentage and weaning weights. The Texas Standardized Performance Analysis database averages are 82.1 percent and 525 pounds.
- Future calf market prices.

Bevers said another factor to consider is the type of female you want to purchase. This could include cow-calf pairs, bred cows, or those requiring a development phase, such as heifers. He said longevity of ownership also needs to be a consideration.

"The longer you keep a productive female, the cheaper she is to own," Bevers said.

Bevers said he has several spreadsheets that producers can use to evaluate their options. Visit <http://agrisk.tamu.edu> for this and other information.

-Release by Blair Fannin of Texas AgriLife Extension

Election and Deficit Discussion

With Mitt Romney's announcement this week that Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) will be his White House running mate in November, entitlements is assured of being a campaign issue. There is even an outside shot that the election might see some serious discussion on the deficit, instead of the idle promises that every candidate makes to balance the budget sometime in the distant future.

I truly believe America is at a critical crossroads in terms of dealing with the deficit. As we've seen with the European bankruptcies, once a country descends into becoming a dependency state, people will not act fiscally responsible even when seemingly they have no other choice.

Recent research released from Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), the ranking member of Senate Budget Committee, indicates that 107 million people in the U.S. are on some sort of means-tested welfare program. When you throw in the 46 million seniors receiving Medicare (minus the 10 million accounted for via other programs), and 22 million government employees, you have 165 million people relying at least partially on government programs! Considering there are fewer than 310 million people in the U.S., that represents a healthy majority.

For perspective, consider that since 2009, the eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps and unemployment benefits has

increased by nearly 10 million. But those numbers pale in comparison to the number of voting-age Americans who don't pay any income tax at all, which now stands at 50.6% of all voters!

Our founding fathers saw the problems with tyranny, but also recognized the drawbacks of a democracy where the rights of the few could be treaded on by the majority. That's was the rationale for the Bill of Rights and why our founding fathers attempted to create a representative democracy instead of a pure democracy.

They saw the danger of democracy and its inherent flaws, but they relied on the belief that a country could create more statesmen than politicians, and that the country could maintain the ethics and morals that allow a democracy to flourish. Unfortunately, the trends are moving away from personal freedom and individual rights, as the majority gains control and runs roughshod over the others.

At one point, the fear was that big business or the wealthy would come to dominate the system at the expense of the working man. Today, the fear is that those reliant on government will demand more and more from those contributing to society until the system eventually collapses.

The very concerns that the founding fathers attempted to circumvent are now once again the overriding concerns - the mischief of factions and the tyranny of the majority. The constitutional limits on government have all but been removed. Instead of limiting government growth and powers, recent court decisions have broadened and created almost unlimited power for the federal government.

We shake our heads at the socialist European model, and how so-called "austerity" measures - measures that don't even force a country to live within its means - cause riots in the street. But how much different are we, when we continue to create record deficits at a record rate, and label as "insensitive" those who merely advocate a reduction in the rate of increased spending?

If the debate doesn't happen in this election, if some sort of fiscal sanity isn't instituted, if the radical shift in the power of the federal government isn't abated, then there probably will be no possibility down the road of righting this ship.

Our two-party system has created a situation where the party in control is all that matters, but this isn't a problem that will be solved by the parties. Both parties have shown that the allure of mortgaging the future of the next generation results in election victories. The solution, if it is to emerge, will have to spring from an electorate clearly demanding a change of course. Given the demographics of dependency in this country, it appears our last best chance for change may well

be the upcoming November elections.

-Release by Troy Marshall for BEEF Magazine

Sept./October Calendar of Events

September:

8th:

Thomas & Sons Cadillac of Brangus Sale- Madison, MO

22nd:

Western National Brangus Show- Oklahoma City, OK

29th:

Star G Ranch Dispersal- Ben Wheeler, TX

October:

13th:

CX Advantage Sale- Weimar, TX

20th:

Doguet Diamond D Sale- Poteet, TX

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

Serving and promoting the interest of its members specific to the breeding, raising, and marketing of Brangus cattle.