



E-Newsletter

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Texas Brangus Breeders

Letter from the President

Dear TBBA Members,

Summer is over and the fall calving season is under way. It's like Christmas every morning finding that new born alive and sucking. The cows are now rewarding me with those breeding decisions made 285 days ago and it makes me feel like a winner. It is my life and I suspect is yours also. I love this time of year. The process of breeding these animals to produce absolutely the best herd sire, cow and or show calf is very challenging and then it takes so long to see the results of your study and hard work.

I know many of you don't use artificial insemination or embryo transfer. It is a more expensive process and is not 100%, but it is a whole new ballgame when it comes to improving your calf crop and ultimately your bottom line. Most of us cannot afford to purchase the herd sire we need and raising a herd sire of this quality is like buying a lottery ticket. Even then, one bull will not work on every cow you own. It is my opinion that for just a few dollars more you can improve your calf crop immensely.

On another subject, many of you know that I had a pretty serious farm accident the first of this month. I am experiencing a lot of pain each day but I am making a slow recovering. I am so lucky to have the privilege to belong to a group of breeders who have offered to assist me through these rough days. I would like to acknowledge each of you that have offered to help, but since the pain medicine has affected my memory I'm afraid that I will omit someone. I hope one day I can repay you.

Pam and I took our three show bulls to Oklahoma City to show in the Western National last week. My fellow competitors would not let me do a thing. They unloaded my trailer, help set up my stalls and helped me groom and show the bulls. The Brangus family is one that I'm proud to be a part of. Thank you all. Our young FDR bull did win his class and division but got stopped in the final

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drive. Results of the Western National can be viewed by [clicking here.](#)

Good luck with your fall calves and I'll see you at one of the upcoming sales.

Sincerely,

Russ Williamson, President

TJBBA Connection: Officer Spotlight

Going into her third year of service on the TJBBA board of Directors, Miss Rachel Brooke McConnell adds her own spark of enthusiasm and assistance serving as Vice President for the 2012-2013 year. McConnell first began her journey in the Brangus breed at the beginning of her eighth grade year what just started out as an AG project, but soon developed into a mad passion. Brangus was the breed for her after she discovered the attractiveness and eye pleasing qualities that Brangus cattle possess then she dove full force into the breed and hasn't looked back since.

Not only did the quality of the cattle attract McConnell, but the quality of the people as well. Applying for the TJBBA board was definitely not a hard choice, she yearned to become more involved with the breed as well as the people she so quickly fell in love with. There is not a thing Rachel doesn't enjoy about being an active member of the board and enjoys every experience it has to offer. "My favorite memory would have to be my very first State Show when I met all of my friends" states McConnell. Her favorite contest to compete in is by far photography being that she has a knack for photography placing first in her division at the 2012 National Junior Brangus Show in West Monroe, Louisiana.

Taking the next step and joining the board should definitely not be a hard choice for members with a hint of interest. "Go ahead and apply if your heart is really into the breed and all its members." Her time on the board has definitely helped Rachel develop and grow even more with the breed she first fell in love with. She believes it is truly an awesome experience.

Along with her love for Brangus Cattle, Rachel also has a deep passion for Rodeo. Already well involved and a high school rodeo star, McConnell plans to barrel race on college rodeo team. After her college graduation, she dreams to join the Pro Rodeo circuit in the WPRA. Nothing ever goes away unaccomplished when you have a burning desire for it like Rachel does. A bright future lies ahead for our 2012-2013 TJBBA Vice President.

Drought Impact on Returns

"It is fair to say the drought of 2012 caused average returns for a cow-calf operation to decline by about \$125/cow compared to the no-drought situation," said analysts with the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) last week.

Early this year, record-high calf prices and expectations for a bin-busting corn crop had LMIC estimating 2012 cow-calf returns over cash costs and pasture rent at \$180/cow, compared to \$86/cow a year earlier. The most recent estimate is or a return of \$57/cow.

LMIC analysts add, "Of course, producers in the most drought-stricken regions had even lower margins."

Estimated feedlot returns are substantially worse.

Assuming a cattle feeder marketed steers every month, LMIC calculates the annual loss to be \$150/steer, more than the previous record estimated loss of \$126/head in 2008; and almost double the estimated loss of \$88/head in 2011. To estimate returns, LMIC assumes a 750-lb. steer that is fed to finish. Costs are basis a commercial yard in the Southern Plains. Calculated returns include neither risk management nor price premiums.

-Release by Wes Ishmael for BEEF Magazine

Farm Bill Expiration-Speaking Out

Several farm groups - including the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association and National Farmers Union - have joined together in releasing a statement on Sunday's expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill. The groups note that the expiration of farm bill program authorities has little or no effect on some important programs. At the same time - the expiration has terminated a number of important programs and will adversely affect many farmers and ranchers - as well as ongoing market development and conservation efforts.

According to the statement - dairy producers will face considerable challenges due to the expiration of the Milk Income Loss Contract program - which compensated producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. The groups say dairy farmers - without a new farm bill - are left with uncertainty and inadequate assistance. Milk prices are currently high enough that the price support program doesn't kick in - but there is no safety net to help battle the highest feed costs on record.

The joint statement goes on to point out that many

farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness or agricultural processors benefit from the Foreign Market Development Program. FMD funding - which helps maintain and increase market share by addressing long-term foreign market import constraints and identifying new markets or new uses for the agricultural commodity or product in the foreign market - will run out at the end of October. According to the farm groups - 31-percent of gross farm income comes from exports - making trade promotion an important part of the safety net. The groups state that other countries will most certainly take advantage of the fact that the program is rendered inoperable and will do what they can to steal our markets.

The joint statement also highlights impacts on the Conservation Reserve and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs, disaster funding for the livestock industry, fruit and vegetable producers, energy programs, agricultural research, rural development and new and beginning farmers. The group says the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and crop insurance are not affected by the farm bill's expiration.

When Congress returns for a lame-duck session ahead of final adjournment in December - the groups say they will work to see that consideration of a new farm bill is the first order of business for the House. The groups are urging their members to seek out their House members before the elections to remind them of the consequences of not having a new farm bill in place before Congress adjourns at the end of the year.

In addition to those mentioned earlier - the American Pulse Association, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Milk Producers Federation, National Sunflower Association, United Fresh Produce Association, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Canola Association and Western Growers Association were part of the joint statement.

-Release by Southern Livestock

Oct./Nov. Calendar of Events

October:

7th:

State Fair of Texas Junior Brangus Show- Dallas, TX

9th:

Rockhampton Brangus Sale- Rockhampton

10th:

VI National Red Brangus Exposition- Tlaquepaque

12th:

Cow Creek "Own the Factory" Sale- Aliceville, AL

13th:

Cow Creek Ranch and Southern Cattle Co. Annual
Production Sale- Aliceville, AL

CX Advantage Sale- Weimar, TX

19th:

State Fair of Texas Pan American Red Brangus Show
and Junior Red Brangus Show- Dallas, TX

20th:

Doguet Diamond D Sale- Poteet, TX

26th:

Salacola Valley Farms "By the Numbers" Sale-
Fairmount, GA

27th:

Oak Creek Forage Tested Bull Sale- Chappell Hill, TX

November:

2nd:

GENETRUST at Chimney Rock Registered Brangus Bull
& Commercial Female Sale- Concord, AR

3rd:

Indian Nations Fall Sale

National Show of Merit- Shreveport, LA

10th:

Hill Country Brangus Breeders Sale- San Angelo, TX
The Stockman Kind's Bull Sale, Blackwater Cattle Co.-
Lake Park, GA

16th:

101 Ranch and Indian Hills Ranch World Series of
Brangus Consignment Sale- Palo Pinto, TX
RRR Ranch Annual Production Female Sale

17th:

ABBA Heart of Alabama Brangus Bull Sale-
Uniontown, AL

RRR Ranch Annual Production Bull Sale

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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