



# E-Newsletter

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Become a fan of the TBBA Facebook page and connect with Brangus breeders around the world. Click on the icon below to be directed to the page.



## Suggestions?

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**Texas Brangus Breeders**

## Letter from the President

Dear TBBA Members,

I am just back from the TBBA San Saba Bull sale and am sorry to report that it was not much stronger this year than last. The larger Brangus ranches and alliances are reporting record prices for their bulls, however, we only had a couple of buyers that paid \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 for bulls and for the most part bidders were not willing to give more than \$2500.00. I surmise that in these smaller type sales, the large commercial breeders that buy numerous bulls just don't want to chance not finding the number and or quality of bulls they need. At any rate I think we should not continue this type of sale in the future. If we want to have a bull sale, we need to offer at least 80 bulls and hire a management sale company that can bring the large commercial ranches from numerous surrounding states.

I am pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has finalized the plan for the 2013 convention and "Miss America Sale" at the Tenroc Ranch in Salado on April 5 and 6 2013. AMS will be managing the sale which will consist of 45 elite lots and a pick lot from three ranches (Skyhawk, JLS and Lingg Brangus) consisting of three show heifer prospects including two Presidente heifers and a double bred 915 heifer. The proceeds of this pick will go to the Texas Junior Brangus Association. Additional details will be announced closer to the sale. Cattle that are entered in the sale will be videoed and the sale will include internet sales by DV Auctions. This is the third event we have had a Tenroc and is always a fun get-together with some very good cattle sold. Sale nominations forms can be accessed by clicking on the link below or by visiting the TBBA website. Plan to make it.

[Miss America Sale Nomination Form](#)

Don't forget to email or call Mike Doguet at [mdoguet@doguets.com](mailto:mdoguet@doguets.com) concerning your entries in the ICA sale at Beaumont, TX on March 8 & 9. This is a very

## **Association**

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strong sale in the right area to sell cattle and the commissions are very low. If you join the ICA you can also sell your commercial cattle in their sale. Membership is available for about \$100.00/year lots of other benefits. Their website is <http://icatexas.com/membership.html> for signing up.

Also, remember the identification rules that commence January 1, 2013. Refer to [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us) for details.

A membership committee has been formed and Garry Clem is chairing that committee. If you have sold cattle to anyone we would like you to ask if they would like to join the TBBA and assist them in joining. Garry's email is [ggclem69@aol.com](mailto:ggclem69@aol.com).

Happy Holidays,

Russ Williamson, President

## **TJBBA Connection: Junior Spotlight**

Going strong into only her second year on the Board, 15 year old Adrian Michelle Whipple is definitely making herself known within the breed serving as the 2012-2013 Reporter. Whipple first began her show career in the fifth grade not long after her big brother Matthew began his show journey. Brangus has kept her to stay not only because of the phenomenal quality of the cattle, but as well as the people that have greatly impacted her life.

Adrian decided to apply for the board of directors because of the strong passion she has for the breed and her desire to serve and give back. The 2012 TJBBA State Show has been one of her favorites because of her family's multiple wins.

"Hard work and determination finally paid off, the feeling is even greater when we win with a bred and owned. Nothing beats that feeling." Public Speaking is by far her favorite competition to compete in. "It's a thrill like none other awaiting your turn to speak. Excitement with a mix of nervousness overwhelms the body which only adds to the fun of it."

Adrian would recommend applying for a board position to all junior members whenever they come of age.

"When we were all little, we had that board member who we looked up to and wanted to be just like, now it's time for us to take their spots."

The association has helped shape her into the person she is today and wants everyone to have that same

experience.

As a sophomore at Brenham High School, Adrian graduates in 2015. After her graduation, she plans to attend Texas A&M University and earn a degree in sociology then hopefully transfer to Harvard University to pursue a degree in Law. Whipple has a bright future ahead of her and will continue to impact the breed for years to come.



## **IJBBA Legacy Conference**

The International Junior Brangus Breeders Association (IJBBA) is one of the most beneficial and advantageous youth organizations in our industry, instilling lifelong skills while developing industry connections and friendships. Now, the IJBBA is hosting its first Legacy Conference to help junior members build leadership skills and get to know other members from all over the country.

Join in the fun January 4-6, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas! Pre-registration is open until December 15, 2012. Download the [registration form](#) and return it to Tyler Dean. [Click here](#) to download and print the schedule.

## **Glimpse of Hope for Farm Bill**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With a week left to act, agricultural leaders in Congress are still deadlocked on two major issues for a new U.S. farm bill, cuts in crop subsidies and reductions in food stamps, said two of the four key negotiators on Thursday.

But the leaders of the House and Senate agriculture committees suggested that recent talks had yielded at least some progress. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

urged prompt passage of the new bill.

Without reauthorization, U.S. farm policy would revert to the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the last "permanent" farm bill and one crafted for an entirely different U.S. economy.

Among other things, if lawmakers do not agree on a new bill, milk prices in U.S. grocery stores could double next month under terms of the fall-back statute which would also limit crop plantings while pushing up farm subsidies by billions of dollars.

A new farm bill would now likely be absorbed into an overall budget-cutting bill that could avert the looming "fiscal cliff" of tax increases and spending cuts. Farm spending cuts of \$23 billion to \$35 billion have been floated.

In speeches at a farm policy conference in Washington, the leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture committees were adamant the final version of the five-year, \$500 billion bill must include elements that are lightning rods for controversy.

Congress is scheduled to adjourn for the year on December 14, although top Republicans have said it will not adjourn until a solution to the fiscal cliff has been announced.

"I would rather have nothing" than a farm bill that does not give farmers the option of price supports, said House Agriculture chairman Frank Lucas. "You need to give our producers a choice."

The Senate version of the farm bill, passed in June with proposed spending cuts totaling \$23 billion, would replace traditional farm subsidies with an insurance-like program that compensates grain and oilseed growers when revenue from a crop is more than 11 percent below average.

Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow said on Thursday that there were strong differences between the House and Senate versions.

"I would never accept what the House did" in slashing \$16 billion in funding for food stamps, the steepest cuts in a generation for a program that helps millions of lower-income Americans keep food on the table.

The Senate bill would cut food stamps by \$4 billion.

Nonetheless, Lucas and Stabenow said a compromise may be agreed upon in time to become part of a must-

pass deficit bill.

An Oklahoma Republican, Lucas said "a lot of progress" has been made in closed-door discussions among the four leaders of the committees. Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat, echoed that sentiment.

"I am very encouraged by the negotiations ... If people of good will sit around the table, you can work it out," she said.

There are some areas of agreement. Both sides would cut conservation spending by \$6 billion and crop subsidies by more than \$13 billion, partly by ending direct-payment subsidies now issued regardless of need.

They also would expand the federally subsidized crop insurance system, now the largest strand in the farm safety net, and convert cotton subsidies to an insurance program, which would resolve a World Trade Organization ruling against the U.S. cotton program.

Still, farm subsidies and food stamps are the chief disputes. And Lucas said a transition period may be needed to allow time to put the new law into effect.

He left open the possibility of another round of the \$5 billion-a-year direct payment program, depending on the savings demanded by congressional leaders.

The precise target for farm spending cuts may be determined as part of high-level deal-making between the White House and Congress. The White House has suggested cuts of \$32 billion, for example, including reduction in crop insurance.

In a speech at the conference that he described as a wake-up call, Vilsack said rural America, with a shrinking share of the U.S. population, "is becoming less and less relevant to the needs of the country," measured by economic and political influence. He called for a "pro-active" attitude and a more strategic approach to issues with an eye to economic growth.

Rural criticism of the food stamp program does not bring more money for farm programs but it antagonizes city dwellers, who like the program, he said. Similarly, he called for an end to infighting among farm groups.

-Release by Charles Abbott for the Chicago Tribune

## **Dec./Jan. Calendar of Events**

**December:**

**15th:**

Entry Deadline- San Antonio Open Brangus Show  
Entry Deadline- Houston Junior Brangus Show  
Commitment Deadline- NCBA Convention Participation  
Pen Reservation Deadline- IBBA Global Roundup

**31st:**

IBBA Semen Directory Listing Form Due  
IBBA Membership Renewal Deadline

**January:**

**5th:**

Entry Deadline- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Open Red Brangus Show

**15th:**

Application Due- IJBBA Scholarship

**20th:**

Spring 2013 FRONTLINE Beef Producer Ad Copy Due

**25th:**

Heifer Check-In- Fort Worth Junior Brangus Show  
Best in the West Brangus Sale- Marana, AZ

**26th:**

Fort Worth Junior Brangus Show- Fort Worth, TX

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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