



E-Newsletter

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**Texas Brangus
Breeders
Association**

Letter from the TBBA President

Dear TBBA Members,

I am just back from the Junior National and Brangus Futurity. It was very hot and humid there but there was a very good attendance with what I believe to be a record number of cattle. I intended to have all the show results for you but will have to report that on the next blast.

What I would like to report now is my omission of couple of great showmanship awards in my last newsletter. Savannah Scott won the Intermediate Showmanship Championship and Adrian Whipple won Reserve Championship in the Intermediate class at the State show in Brenham, TX. I apologize for my omission.

I thank my God for the rains we have got this summer. My place is in much better condition than a year ago. Our neighbors up north and west are going thru what we had last year and will need our help to get through the winter. The thing that will come from these dry weather patterns is the shortage of cattle. The cattle industry is a historical lows and the shortage of cattle will normally translate to higher prices. Therefore if you have cattle now, you are in the driver's seat. Sales next spring should be great.

Your TBBA has bulls sale on 6 Dec 2012, a female and bull sale on 8 March 2013, and an elite sale at our convention in Salado on 6 April 2013. Help us have the greatest year yet and have some fun also. What else is more important that raising good cattle, be a good parent and citizen and having fun.

We are coming up on a busy season of sales and shows. Check in with the TBBA web site at txbrangus.org for listing of sales and shows. While you are there, list your "for sale cattle" for free. Just click on the market place and follow the instructions.

We need good bulls for the 6 Dec 2012 San Saba Sale. Call or email Kelly Grissom at 254-559-0101 or [Kelly Grissom kellygrissom61@gmail.com](mailto:kellygrissom61@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 690552
San Antonio, TX
78269

210-558-0800

txbrangus.org



From the Vice-President

The Salado Sale committee is well on the way with preparations for the April 6, 2013 sale and annual convention at Tenroc Ranch. The committee is soliciting members who would like to participate on the sale committee. We encourage our membership to contact Joe Dillard or Donnie Dipple if they would like the sales team to consider their nominations for the sale. We know it is early, but we want you to look into your herd, to select a good rip or two for consideration. We are looking for high quality heifers (bred & open), bred cows, pairs and we expect to offer a herd sire or two. We look forward to hearing from you and be sure to save the date!

Thanks for your time,

Russ Williamson President

Animal Science Departments Unite

A group of university department heads from across the nation have come together to establish an association focused on advocating increased federal investment in animal science.

The National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science is comprised of representatives from animal, dairy and poultry science departments from colleges and universities across the U.S. who are dedicated to improving overall federal funding for animal agricultural research.

Dr. Russell Cross, head of the department of animal science at Texas A&M University, serves as president of the association.

"Federal funding for research, education and Extension in the animal sciences has remained stagnant over the last 30 years, both in terms of real dollars invested and as a percentage of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's overall investment in science," Cross said.

"While there have been numerous efforts to address overall funding for agricultural research, there has not been a concerted effort to specifically advocate for funding of the animal sciences. In order to address funding inequities and build support for increasing the federal investment in the animal sciences, bold new steps need to be taken."

The association will serve as a common voice for animal agricultural researchers who play a critical role in maintaining the nation's status as a world leader in safe, abundant and efficiently produced animal products, according to officials. It intends to work closely with like-minded groups such as the

Federation of Animal Science Societies and the Animal Agriculture Coalition to complement their activities by providing focused advocacy to increase funding for the animal sciences.

The association will actively work with Congress and the Administration to promote the importance of investing in animal science. Its members will benefit from regular updates on policy developments and be alerted to opportunities to communicate with policy makers about the animal sciences, he said.

As the world's population grows and natural resources become limited, agricultural research is necessary to improve efficiency in order to sustain food supplies for the growing global community.

"Demand for agricultural products is expected to increase 70 to 100 percent by 2050," Cross said. "As global economies develop, the demand for animal products is projected to grow most rapidly. Funding support at the federal level is a must in order for our nation's top researchers to continue making discoveries and advancements in agricultural research in order to increase agricultural productivity and meet this projected growth."

All departments of animal, dairy and poultry science in the U.S. are encouraged to join the association. National, regional and state commodity, industry and other organizations allied with animal agriculture are also encouraged to become associate members.

For more information on the association or to join, contact Cross at hrcross@tamu.edu, Walt Smith at wsmith@lockelord.com or Lowell Randel at Lowell@therandelgroup.com.

Association officers and board of directors are:

Officers:

- Russell Cross, president - head of department of animal science, Texas A&M University;
- Maynard Hogberg, vice president - chair of department of animal science, Iowa State University;
- Kevin Pond, secretary - head of department of animal sciences, Colorado State University; and
- Janice Swanson, treasurer - chair of the department of animal science, Michigan State University.

Directors:

- Ron Allen, associate dean for research and director of the agricultural experiment station, College of

Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Arizona;

- Larry Berger, head of department of animal science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln;
- John Carey, head of department of poultry science, Texas A&M University;
- Wayne Greene, head of department of animal science, Auburn University;
- Gerald Horn, head of department of animal science, Oklahoma State University;
- Ronald Kensinger, chair of department of animal sciences, Ohio State University;
- Mike Lacy, head of department of poultry science, University of Georgia; and
- Ken Odde, head of department of animal sciences and industry, Kansas State University.

-Release by Southwest Farm Press

Heat Stress' Impact on Reproduction

The effects of heat stress on reproductive performance of beef cows has been discussed by many animal scientists in a variety of ways. After reviewing the scientific literature available up to 1979, one scientist (Christenson, R.K. 1980, J. Anim. Sci. 51: Suppl II: 53.) wrote that the most serious seasonal variation in reproductive performance was associated with high ambient temperatures and humidity. He further pointed out that pregnancy rates and subsequent calving rates of 10 to 25% were common cows bred in July through September.

Typical Oklahoma summer weather can fit the description of potential heat stress, where many days in a row can exceed 95 degrees and night time lows are often close to 80 degrees. Many hours of the day can be quite hot and cause the slightest rise in body temperature of cattle. Research conducted several years ago at OSU illustrated the possible impact of heat stress of beef cows on their reproductive capability. These cows were exposed to bulls as one group (while in a thermo-neutral environment) and one week later exposed to the environmental treatments listed below in Table 1.

**Table 1. Effects of Imposed Heat Stress on Reproduction in Beef Cows
(Biggers, 1986;OSU)**

	Control	Moderate Heat Stress	Severe Heat Stress
Day time temp (F.)	71	97	98
Night time temp (F.)	71	91	91
Relative humidity (%)	43	27	38
Rectal temp (F.)	102.0	102.7	103.6
Pregnancy (%)	83	64	50
Conceptus wt (g)	0.158	0.111	.073

They found that heat stress of beef cows from day 8 through 16 affected the weights of the conceptus (embryo, fluids, and membranes) and the increased body temperature may have formed an unfavorable environment for embryo survival. As noted in table 1, the percentage of pregnancies maintained throughout the week of severe heat stress was considerably reduced.

Florida scientists studying dairy cows reported that for high conception rates the temperature at insemination and the day after insemination was critical to success. They stated that the optimal temperature range was between 50 degrees F and 73 degrees F. Declines in conception occurred when temperatures rose above this range.

Extremely hot days and warm nights in the Southern Plains will cause core body temperatures of range cows to elevate. This data suggests that producers should make every effort to establish their breeding seasons when the temperatures are more in a thermal neutral range. Also remember that bull fertility is affected by heat stress. Fall calving (with breeding seasons beginning in late November and ending in January) allow for fertilization and early embryonic survival when heat stress is not a factor.

-Release by Glenn Selk for BEEF Magazine

Livestock Groups Call for Reform

Livestock and poultry groups urged Congress to reform the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) July 19 after releasing a study outlining the impact of corn ethanol production on food and commodity prices.

The American Meat Institute, California Dairy Inc., the Milk Producers Cooperative, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Chicken Council, the National Pork

Producers Council and the National Turkey Federation funded the study conducted by Thomas Elam, Ph.D., president of FarmEcon LLC.

According to the study, federal ethanol policy mandating the amount of ethanol produced annually has increased and destabilized corn, soybean and wheat prices. The RFS, first imposed in 2005 and revised in 2007, this year requires 15.2 billion gallons of ethanol to be produced.

"The increases we've seen in commodity prices are strongly associated with the RFS mandate," Elam said. "At the same time, we haven't seen the promised benefits on oil imports or gasoline prices. This means that while Americans are forced to pay more for food, they're also not seeing lower prices at the pump."

The livestock and poultry groups cited the Elam study's conclusion that the mandate should be revised to allow automatic adjustments to reduce incentives for ethanol production when corn stocks are forecast to reach critically low levels.

"Because of the RFS, however, corn-based ethanol manufacturers are protected from sharing the full burden of a corn harvest shortfall," stated to the coalition.

The coalition supports the "Renewable Fuels Standard Flexibility Act" (H.R. 3097), sponsored by Reps. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., and Jim Costa, D-Calif. The legislation would require a biannual review of ending corn stocks relative to their total use. If the ratio falls below 10 percent, the RFS could be reduced by 10 percent. If it falls below 7.5 percent, the mandate could shrink by 15 percent; below 6 percent, it could be reduced by 25 percent; and if the ratio falls below 5 percent, the ethanol mandate could be cut by 50 percent.

"Such relief is extremely urgent," according to the coalition. "The recent spike in corn prices prompted by drought conditions in much of the Corn Belt has analysts predicting the United States will run short of corn this summer. Another short corn crop would be extremely devastating to the animal agriculture industry, food makers and foodservice providers, as well as consumers."

National Corn Growers Association President Garry Niemeyer released a rival statement Wednesday, claiming that the RFS "is revitalizing rural America, reducing our dependence on foreign fuel and reducing the cost of gasoline. Making changes to the RFS now would only ensure that consumers suffer due to significantly higher fuel prices."

-Release by Agri-Pulse Communications

August/September Calendar of Event

August

6th-8th:

Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Short Course-
College Station, TX

September:

22nd: Western National Brangus Show- Oklahoma City, OK

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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