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**Texas Brangus
Breeders**

Letter from the President

Dear TBBA Members,

It's 2013 and Pam and I are looking forward to a better year than we had last year. With her arm being broken while holding a tail while I was artificially breeding and me being run over by a tractor we both are looking forward to much less pain this year.

Membership is a big issue on my plate and I have decided to offer a paid for TBBA membership for each Brangus sale I make. Some of these buyers may not even care to be a member, but a few will, and the \$50.00 it costs me is worth adding to a really good organization. I hope some of you can come up with some ideas to increase our membership.

Your ballot to elect the new Board members is due, so don't forget to return that ballot to Frances at the IBBA office.

Also, nominations are due for the two TBBA sales coming up. Females and bulls can be sold at the TBBA/ICA sale at the Ford Center in Beaumont, TX on 8 & 9 March 2013. This sale is a really good opportunity to expand your sales network as there are many commercial breeders there plus you can market your lower end heifers by entering them in the commercial part of the sale in pens. The price of these pens has a record of obtaining up to \$3000.00 per animal. Compare that to what the sale barns have been selling them for. Contact Mike Doguet at mdoguet@doguets.com for more information.

AMS has been contracted to handle our "Miss America" sale at our convention at Tenroc Ranch in Salado, TX on 6 April 2013. AMS needs your very best for nominations for this Sale. Contact Mark Cowan at markc@amscattle.com for more information. To send in a nomination the form is available at the link below. Joe Dillard at joe.dillard@weatherford.com is our committee chairman for this sale.

Association

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A number of shows are coming up and are listed below. The Juniors have a big show in Fort Worth on January 26, 2013. This is really a big event for them and I enjoy going there. There is no Open Brangus show there. The San Antonio Open Show is Sunday February 10th and the Junior show is the 14th and 15th of February. Then the IBBA convention and show in Houston the week of the 25th of February. The bulls show on Friday and the Females and Groups show on Saturday with the Genetic Edge Sale Saturday evening. A new internet-only "sale" will be held at the Crown Plaza at 6:30 pm on Thursday and put on by Ideal Productions and AMS.

The Beaumont/ICA sale is the very next Friday and Saturday in Beaumont, TX.

[TBA/ICA Sale Nomination Form](#)

Then our Convention and "Miss America" sale is 5 and 6 April 2013. We are in for a lot of miles in our truck in the next few months! Hope to see you at these events. Have a great 2013.

[Miss America Sale Nomination Form](#)

Thanks,

Russ Williamson, President

TJBBA Connection: Junior Spotlight

In her fifth year on the board serving as Ex-Officio, 18 year old Elizabeth Ann Wishert follows her love as a member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Band as well as maintaining her spot on the TJBBA Board of Directors, assisting the president with her knowledge and experience. Wishert first began her show career in 2002 showing her brother Ben's heifer in showmanship at Waco and after that could not wait for a heifer of her own. The Wishert family possessed a herd of good, hearty commercial Brangus cattle which paved the way for their show career, but what kept them around was the individuality of each animal with their personality as well as the Brangus show family.

Elizabeth decided to apply for the board of directors because she enjoyed the state show so much and thought it was the greatest opportunity to share her love of cattle, showing and learning that she wanted to give back to the Brangus Family." I also wanted to share that friendly welcoming experience that I had with other new members and old members also" states Wishert. "I really have two favorite memories. The first was the year I met Ashton Watt. We share the same birthday and are the same age. It was like we were twins. We have grown up

in the TJBBA and IJBBA together competing in the show ring especially in showmanship or racing go karts at Horse Shoe Junction." Her second favorite memory would be at the TJBBA State Show in 2010 when she and her heifer Mave were named Grand Champion. " We were in the final drive on the hottest day of the year standing out there forever. Then suddenly he came over and shook my hand and told me congratulations. I couldn't stop shaking and smiling." Elizabeth's favorite competition would definitely have to be Public Speaking. She believes it better prepares any and everybody for future tasks and assists them in overcoming the fear of speaking in front of people. It has helped her form into the person she is today and progressed her speaking and leadership skills extensively along with sharing her knowledge of agriculture with her peers.

Would she recommend applying for the TJBBA board to members? Definitely! The boards' duties and responsibility includes planning and running the State Show making sure things run smoothly and always thinking of ways for improvement. "But the best part about being on the board is meeting all the members because you are checking in cattle and getting people to sign up for contest. You also are putting on the various contests so you get to know everyone." "My favorite thing about being on the TJBBA board is meeting the new members and welcoming them to the state show and into the Brangus family. I love greeting the new members and encouraging them to get involved so they have a good time and will want to come back. I want everyone to grow to enjoy the cattle and the people in the organization and have a good time while competing fiercely in the show ring."

Her plans for the immediate future are to complete four years as part of the nationally famous Fighting Texas Aggie Band, TAMU Corps of Cadets A-Battery Class of 2016 and earn an agricultural engineering degree from Texas A&M University as soon after as possible. Elizabeth plans to continue to show her Brangus cattle at the TJBBA and IJBBA shows and maybe a few open shows. Ms. Elizabeth Ann Wishert has definitely left an impact on the Brangus breed and will continue to inspire members for years to come!

Adrian Whipple, TJBBA Reporter

Agriculture Census is Important

Farmers and ranchers across America should be in possession of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) five-year agriculture census form, mailed out to ag producers of all fifty states beginning earlier this month. According to USDA's National Agricultural

Statistics Service, the census is a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches of all shapes and sizes, as well as the people who operate them, and an important instrument in helping shape U.S. agriculture policy in the years ahead.

The agriculture census looks at land use and ownership, demographics, production practices, income, expenditures and other topics. The data is often used by legislators when shaping farm policy, and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts.

Because of severe drought conditions across the Southwest, officials in Texas and New Mexico are urging producers to participate in this year's census. New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte says this year's census is especially important.

"This year's census is very important, given the toll that drought and the high cost of inputs have imposed on the state's farmers and ranchers over the last few years," said Witte. "That's all the more reason for the state's agricultural producers to be counted, so we get an accurate snapshot of agriculture."

The last Census of Agriculture was conducted in 2007 and showed that almost 21,000 farms and ranches in New Mexico reporting over 43 million acres. The 2007 count was 38 percent more than the previous census in 2002 as more producers realize the importance of completing the census. The average age of New Mexico's farm and ranch operators in 2007 was 59.6 years old, compared to 56.4 years in 2002. This telling information and thousands of other statistics are only available every five years as a direct result of farmer and ranchers responses to the census.

In Texas, fewer acres of farm and ranch land are reported each year. Texas leads the country in privately-owned lands, however, according to the recent Texas Land Trends survey from the American Farmland Trust and the Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR) at Texas A&M University. The survey shows the Lone Star State has 142 million acres of farm, ranch and timberlands, but is losing 1.5 million acres of agricultural land every 10 years.

Meanwhile, growers are doing more with less and countless businesses have sprung up to import and distribute produce from Mexico. Much of that product flows through Texas before reaching consumers in the rest of the country and Canada.

The census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation," says Longino Bustillos, acting director of National

Agricultural Statistics Service's New Mexico Field Office. "It's a critical tool that gives farmers and ranchers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry, and operation."

The ag census is especially important for following what's happening with small farms. Dean Groskurth with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), said the USDA constantly checks in with farmers who raise major commodities like corn, cattle, hogs, and wheat. Specialty crops receive much less attention.

"The good thing about the census is that we can get those commodities that aren't generally surveyed by each particular state in the country," said Groskurth.

Small farms often fly under the radar until they're counted every five years in the census.

Completed forms are due to the USDA by February 4, 2013. Farmers and ranchers can fill out the census online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov, or return their form by mail. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the census and requires the Statistics Service to keep all individual information confidential.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reminding farmers to complete and return their agricultural census form as soon as possible.

For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-424-7828.

-Release by Logan Hawkes for Southwest Farm Press

USDA Calls for Board Members

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently published a Notice of Intent to Renew the Charter for its Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in the Federal Register dated December 19, 2012. This notice also included a request for nominations for two-year membership terms.

This Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers-leveraging best practices to enhance Department goals for new farming and ranching operations. The Committee will also consider goals and objectives necessary to implement its recommendations from the prior term.

The USDA is soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals from among ranching and

farming producers (industry), related government, State, and Tribal agricultural agencies, academic institutions, commercial banking entities, trade associations, and related nonprofit enterprises. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership; alternatively, an individual may nominate herself or himself. Nomination packages should include a nomination form along with a cover letter or resume that documents the nominee's background and experience. Nomination forms are available on the Internet at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/AD-755_Master_2012_508%20Ver.pdf.

The period for submitting nominations packages has been extended to January 16, 2013 (a notice regarding the extension will likewise be published in the Federal Register). A nomination package should include a resume or biographical description with a cover letter addressed to Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Individuals nominated (either by self or by others) must also complete an application (Form AD-755).

Nomination packages with a completed AD-755 application should be sent to: Mrs. R. J. Cabrera, Designated Federal Official, USDA OAO, 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 520-A, Washington, DC 20250-0170. Nomination packages may also be faxed to (202) 720-7704. Inquires may be sent via email to: ACBFR@osec.usda.gov.

-Release by USDA

Jan./Feb. Calendar of Events

January:

12th:

Lake City Invitational Black Bull Sale- Lake City, FL

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

February:

6th-9th:

NCBA Convention and Trade Show

10th:

International Brangus Open Show- San Antonio, TX

15th:
International Brangus Junior Show- San Antonio, TX
19th:
Romans Brangus & Angus Bull Sale- Nyssa, OR
23rd:
22nd Annual Roswell Brangus Sale- Roswell, NM
Spitzer Ranch Professional Cattlemen's Brangus Bull
Sale & Customer Brangus Gold Commercial Female
Sale- Fair Play, SC
27th-March 2nd:
IBBA Annual Convention
28th:
Brangus Global Roundup- Houston, TX

Sincerely,
Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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