



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?

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any suggestions to the Facebook page or E-Newsletter should be sent to

Letter from the President

Dear Texas Brangus Breeders,

It's hard to believe that the year is almost half gone! My grandad always said, "the older you get the faster the days fly by!" Well I think that is true, along with a lot of other things he shared with me! I wish he was still around to see my herd of hearty Brangus Cattle. He was the ranch manager for the Parker's out of Odessa on 195 sections for over 30 years, of course the only cattle on that ranch were Herefords. In fact I didn't know any other kind of beef cattle existed until I left West Texas! I hope you don't mind me being a bit nostalgic today since it is my birthday (and had a wonderful present of 1-1/2" inches of rain) and I have been doing some reflecting on where I came from. I have been very blessed with health, a wonderful family, career, caretaker of a little piece of God's wonderful creation and blessed to live in the greatest country and the GREATEST STATE, TEXAS!

Many of us over the past month or so have received some much needed rain, some more than others but all welcome! I was talking to a breeder in Missouri last week and she was saying they are almost waterlogged. I relayed a story from a few years ago when I said IF IT EVER RAINED again I would NEVER complain about the mud, and I haven't!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in West Monroe next month at the NJBS July 14-20 and in Brenham in a couple of weeks for the State Show. Please support our juniors by placing an ad in their program or contributing to their shows.

Please keep our neighbors in Oklahoma and Kansas in your thoughts and prayers!

Until next time,

Joe Dillard, TBBA President

TJBBA Junior Connection

mollie@txbrangus.org

**Texas Brangus
Breeders
Association**

P.O. Box 690552
San Antonio, TX
78269

210-558-0800

txbrangus.org

Sunday June 9th, 2013 at 6:08 a.m. This is probably the very best moment I could ever imagine, this is the moment I returned to cell phone service as I sat and welcomed the Texas Shore back into my life. As I sat on the 10th deck of the Carnival Magic emails and notifications began to flood in.

I received word from friends, relatives and Brangus connections. While I was out of the country for a week, life continued to surge on. Messages and questions concerning the upcoming TJBBA State Show crammed my inbox, reminding me that the Brangus industry is indeed strong and always progressing.

My trip to the Caribbean was a fantastic journey, but just wasn't quite the same without the cattle or Texas dirt. The food on board was formal and fancy with some of the best waiting staff on hand. Each night at dinner we were given the opportunity to try something new and different-to branch out from the norm. I have to say each time I saw the words USDA Beef on the menu all other choices were out of the window. Everywhere you look, even traveling across the world, beef is a prominent player.

I am glad to be back in the states after a much deserved vacation and now it's time to get down to work and tie up all loose ends concerning State Show. My cruise was amazing, but State Show will be phenomenal. No amount of kayaking and zip lining in Jamaica, swimming with dolphins in the Cayman Islands, or playing on the beach in Cozumel will ever beat the feeling of an animal on the other end of the halter. Speeches, business, muddy barn shoes and long hot summer days will always give me that serenity, peace, and thrill so many seek. Good luck to all exhibitors and safe travels on your way to come see us in Brenham June 19th-22nd.

-Contributed by Adrian Whipple, TJBBA Reporter

Fox Rabies Case Confirmed

Calling it an isolated case, the Texas Department of State Health Services has confirmed a single cow in McCulloch County has tested positive for Texas fox rabies, the first such case in the state in over four years, raising concerns that the deadly virus may be returning to Central Texas after several years of intense eradication efforts.

In 1995, one of the worst outbreaks of rabies in the U.S. reached its peak with 644 cases of canine rabies (*Canis latrans*), reported in a 20-county region from 1988-1995. Texas state officials declared a state health emergency. Adding to the problem was a separate outbreak of fox

rabies in West Texas, which quickly spread south into the Hill Country. A statewide rabies quarantine was ordered and an experimental aerial rabies vaccine program was launched in an effort to manage the outbreak.

In all, hundreds of animals in Texas, including pets and livestock, were infected and died as a result and over 2,000 people received post-exposure shots. But the aerial vaccine program was deemed successful and every year since 1995 bait laced with rabies vaccine has been distributed in hot spots all across the state. In 2004, federal officials declared the canine strain eliminated from the state and the last case of the more dreaded fox rabies was reported in 2009, leading health officials to declare the virus virtually eradicated from Central Texas.

Until now.

With the confirmation of a strain of fox rabies in a Melvin, Texas, cow last week, officials with several state agencies are asking for the public's immediate help in monitoring the suspected outbreak.

Agencies directly involved with the "Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Testing for Select Areas of West Central Texas" include the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Texas Wildlife Services Program. AgriLife Extension is coordinating county-by-county educational efforts to inform the public.

State Health Services officials say as temperatures continue to climb in the summer months, the chance for a rabies outbreak increases. To make matters worse, drought conditions heighten the chance of spreading the disease as more animals flock to shrinking drinking water sources in the wild.

To read more on this issue, [click here](#).

-Release by Logan Hawkes for Southwest Farm Press

Range & Livestock Conference

BIG SPRING - The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct the West Texas Livestock and Range Conference from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. June 27 at the Broughton Agriculture Complex on the Howard College campus in Big Spring.

The conference is a multi-county effort involving the AgriLife Extension offices in Glasscock, Upton, Reagan, Howard, Martin and Midland counties.

"We have a fine slate of speakers coming who will present ranch-related information covering a wide array of topics pertinent to ranching in Far West Texas," said Rebel Royall, AgriLife Extension agent in Glasscock County. "The AgriLife Extension agents planned the program based on needs from our local planning committees who share a common thread across our area, so that's what's being presented."

The morning session will deal with legislative water updates, the Earth Partners-Conservation Biomass, range management/wildfire prevention and Dow range herbicide products.

The afternoon program will include presentations on Heart Brand Meats, drought management, Beef Quality Assurance and beef cattle health-related topics including vaccination programs, a live animal demonstration on chute-side protocol and de-worming.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered - two general and one integrated pest management.

Individual preregistration is \$15 if received at the AgriLife Extension office in Glasscock County by June 18 and \$25 thereafter. The fee includes the noon meal. For more information contact Royall at 432-354-2381, r-royall@tamu.edu or the AgriLife Extension office in any of the participating counties.

-Release by Steve Byrns for Texas A&M AgriLife

TAMU Beef Cattle Short Course

Registration for the 59th Annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is available now through August 1.

Short Course will be held in College Station, TX August 5-7. For more information, [click here](#).

TBBA Business Card Ads

TBBA members have the opportunity to advertise their farm or ranch through the new business card advertisements to be launched on the TBBA website soon. If you would like to purchase a business card ad, e-mail mollie@txbrangus.org for more information. Business card ads will cost \$50.

Call for Cattle Photos

The TBBA is constantly looking for ways to improve our social media sights. If you have photos of your Brangus cattle around the farm or ranch that you would like us to

share on the Facebook page, please e-mail those in .jpg format to mollie@txbrangus.org.

To view the current "Around the Farm and Ranch" album, [click here](#).

June/July Calendar of Events

June:

12th:

BIF Annual Research Symposium and Convention-
Oklahoma City, OK

19th-20th:

TJBBA State Show- Brenham, TX

28th:

Registration Deadline- Texas Grazingland Conference

July:

14th-20th:

National Junior Brangus Show and Futurity- West
Monroe, LA

15th-17th:

Texas Grazingland Conference featuring Temple
Grandin-Ft. Worth, TX

16th:

Western Region Brangus Classic- Sacramento, CA

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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