



E-Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Dear TBBA Member,

The big news this week is the approval by the IBBA membership of the Bylaw change to allow the Ultrablack approach to breeding first generation Brangus cattle. According to my information the vote passed by 70%. This new approach to breeding up will allow new Angus genetics into the Brangus population and will be a much more efficient way of breeding up. The traditional process had lots and lots of unqualified calves which drove the cost of this type of breeding very high and made it very, very expensive. The argument against this is that you now will have a breed that is not truly 3/8s by 5/8s; it very, very close, but not 3/8s by 5/8s. The new genetics that we need and will be coming through this breeding up process should provide improvement in the growth numbers.

When it gets down to it, some of our Brangus are clean and look Angusey (not a word) and some have more of a Brahman look. It's the way the genes line up where some are more dominate in one animal than the other. So our Brangus may not be pure 3/8s by 5/8s when you consider the genes.

In my opinion we already have a superior animal for this climate. Other breeds are changing their genetic makeup to gain more of the market and if we don't improve our cattle to keep and increase our customer base, years down the road we will lose the battle. When it **gets down to it**, our bull buyers will enter a pen of bulls and select the type bull he desires for his herd. It might be a very clean Angus looking bull, or one with a lot of leather, but **he** will decide. What is **really** important is that we as breeders of these bulls provide our customers with an animal that will perform at or above his expectations. If we do that, he will stay with our breed and most likely with you for his bull purchases. The commercial cattleman does not care what you call him or what his registration make-up is; he cares about getting the maximum price for his cattle when he markets them and

mollie@txbrangus.org

**Texas Brangus
Breeders
Association**

P.O. Box 690552
San Antonio, TX
78269

210-558-0800

txbrangus.org

how many pounds when he weans them.

The breeding process to this is the Angus to the Brangus for the Ultrablack, then the Ultrablack to the Brangus for the $\frac{3}{4}$ (this animal will also be registered as an Ultrablack) and then the $\frac{3}{4}$ to the Brangus for the 1st Generation purebred Brangus.

As you probably know, Dr. Joe Massey has resigned as our Executive Vice President and a Search Committee has been formed for his replacement. Dr. Massey has contributed much toward the success of this breed during his tenure. For those who have short memories, our organization was in very serious financial trouble about 8 years ago. The GPS system that he and his staff developed for our breed is one of, if not the, best in the seed stock industry. Several other breeds have contracted us to use our GPS system and this division of our IBBA is the sole division that is in the black ink. It has become a valuable asset which we need to take care of. I personally talked to Dr. Massey about this and it is his opinion that we will lose the contracts and the income from these breeds when he leaves. **Again this is his opinion**, but my opinion is that we cannot risk this potential lose. In his letter of resignation he offered to stay on and manage the GPS system. I presume that many will say that whoever we select should be, and will be, qualified to manage GPS and I agree, however, if Dr. Massey is right, and we lose the income of GPS, it will cost us financially. Personally, I sure would be in favor of keeping Dr. Massey on at least in the short term to insure that we don't lose this income.

I am just your representative and my personal opinion does not count, it is yours. Please guide me in this most important decision by email. My email address is skyhawkbrangus@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to make your plans for our convention and "Miss America" sale at the Tenroc Ranch in Salado, TX on Friday and Saturday April 19th and 20th. Cattle will arrive on Friday and will be available for viewing, there will be a Board Meeting, a general meeting, guest speaker Mr. Jerry Patterson (Texas Land Commissioner) followed by a steak dinner and dancing. The elite cattle sale will be on Saturday. Hope to see you there.

Russ Williamson, President and IBBA Board Member

TJBBA Connection: Looking Forward

Stock show season is quickly coming to an end within the next week. Many people ask "why does it have to end so soon?" Nothing ignites the flame of an anxious heart quite like the end of an eternity wait to set foot once

again on one of a showman's favorite grounds. A love for something truly grows in the absence of it! The 2013 major run has been an unforgettable one, after all we're not only in it for the buckles and banners, but the friendships along the way. Our animals are turned out into the pasture to stretch and recoup as well as give us something beautiful to look at each time we step outside. Babies are dropping the ground allowing us to sigh in relief that they've made it, and we've made it another day to welcome them. Now that this first hectic portion of our year is over with, preparation is essential to succeed in some of our upcoming Brangus events. For the juniors especially, we are preparing for the Miss America Sale and the TJBBA State Show.

April 20th is quickly approaching and before we know it, the Miss America Sale will have already come and gone. The heifers donated by JLS International, Ling Brangus, and Skyhawk Brangus are all beautiful females with bright futures ahead of them! Other than the cattle, this event allows junior members to interact and make friends with long time breeders. We can even hope that maybe they'll share a few secrets on how to maintain a long-lasting operation. It's a junior's favorite time with State Show just shy of three months away and we cannot help but feel anxiousness and anticipation. Decisions are becoming finalized and plans are falling into place for what could be one of the greatest State Show's we have yet seen. Dates for the show are set for June 19th-22nd. We plan to make this years' show a memorable one for the books! If you know of anyone who is interested or would like to sign up for the TJBBA, they can sign up at www.tjbba.net and download our new member form underneath the membership tab. Come excel not only in the show ring, but as well as with other opportunities to shine and have a blast.

2013 majors may be almost over with, but definitely not the experiences and friendships gained along the way. The people that we meet at these cattle-related events may become our lifelong friends because of the common bond we all share. We all may be very competitive in the show ring, but aside competition we cannot deny the similarities we all have that bring us together and link us like family-a family that is constantly growing and evolving into something better. After all, all things become better with time. Once a good show heifer retires she turns into a great cow, all cattleman can appreciate a nice cow to carry on the genetics and herd. What's not to love about the breed that does it all? In the show ring, the pasture, and the people who stand behind each. I hope to see you in Salado!

Adrian Whipple, TJBBA Reporter

Houston Junior Show Results

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Junior Brangus Show was held on March 10th. Randy Perry of Fresno, CA, evaluated the entries.

Tanner Miller of New Diana FFA exhibited the Grand Champion Female, CMR Ms. Lanie 488Z. She represented the Heifer Calf division. Coming in as Reserve Grand Champion was Madelaine Pack of Boyd FFA with Miss ILS Eleanor 915Y58 out of the Junior Heifer division.

Additional division winners were:

Reserve Champion Heifer Calf: DDD Ms. Chariti 88Z10 exhibited by Jake Johnston of Ellis County 4-H, Waxahachie, TX

Reserve Champion Junior Heifer: CK News Lady Elizabeth exhibited by Rachel McConnell of Hallsville FFA, Longview, TX

Champion Senior Heifer: DDD Ms. Princess 804X48 exhibited by David Jonathan Duty of Bruceville-Eddy FFA, Eddy, TX

Reserve Champion Senior Heifer: Smart Designer 804Y3 exhibited by Claire Smart of Karnes County 4-H, Runge, TX

A complete list of the Black Brangus results can be found [here](#).

The Red Brangus Junior Show was held on March 8th. Mark McCully of Wooster, OH evaluated the entries.

Dustin Bostick of Bangs FFA exhibited the Grand Champion Female, Ill Lady Luck 022Y, who came out of the Senior Heifer division. Dos XX's Miss Mercedes was Reserve Grand Champion out of the Junior Heifer division. She was exhibited by Taylor Goerlitz of Brenham FFA.

Additional division winners were:

Reserve Champion Senior Heifer: TCW Megan Foxy exhibited by Tyler Lyons of Burnet FFA

Reserve Champion Junior Heifer: Ponderosa TG Caitlin 840/1 exhibited by Emily Hoffman of Barbers Hill FFA

Champion Heifer Calf: Dos XX's Miss Sunshine 12/2 exhibited by Austin Boswell of Bowie County 4-H

Reserve Champion Heifer Calf: Miss -C- Red Bailye 087Z exhibited by Bailye Foltyn of Matagora County 4-H

The entire list of results from the Junior Show can be found [here](#).

Importance of Antibiotics

The American Farm Bureau Federation and other members of the Coalition for Animal Health recently hosted an educational briefing for congressional staff on meat production, public health and the importance of antibiotics.

The briefing focused on helping legislators understand how and why farmers and ranchers use antibiotics. Presenters included Dr. Scott Hurd, a veterinarian and epidemiologist at Iowa State University; Dr. Christine Hoang with the American Veterinary Medical Association; and Dr. Rich Carnevale from the Animal Health Institute.

The risk to humans is negligible due to on-farm antibiotic use, Hurd said, citing numerous peer-reviewed scientific assessments that have failed to demonstrate any detectable risk treatment failure in humans caused by on-farm antibiotic use in animals.

Failure to prevent or treat illness causes unnecessary animal suffering and death, Hurd pointed out. Further, he explained, animals with residual effects of illness are more likely to cause human foodborne disease.

"Every farm with animals is both a maternity hospital and a day care," Hurd said.

"Animals need medicines at times, just like kids do. This becomes a moral and ethical issue ...at what point will we deny treatment? It's not right to withhold veterinary care for animals."

Antibiotics for animals are needed because illnesses can move quickly through populations and livestock cannot "stay home" when they are sick.

Farmers and veterinarians are working together to manage potential hazards, with the goal of producing a safe and wholesome food supply, protecting public health and preserving antibiotics for use by future generations.

"It's a long way from farm to harm," Hurd said.

Commenting on several bacteria of concern to the Infectious Disease Society, Hurd said most, including Staphylococcus infections (MRSA), Streptococcus pneumoniae and drug-resistant tuberculosis, are not

foodborne infections or related in any way to food-producing animals.

-Release by Southeast Farm Press

Todd Staples Salutes Agriculture

AUSTIN - Recognizing farmers and ranchers play a critical role in nourishing today's population as well as future generations, Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples is encouraging Texans to join him in celebrating National Agriculture Week, March 17-23, and National Agriculture Day on March 19. This year's National Ag Week theme is "Generations Nourishing Generations."

"Agriculture is critical to the life of every Texan," Commissioner Staples said. "Each American farmer raises enough food each year to feed 155 people. Today's farmers and ranchers are more productive and efficient than ever before, but as our population grows there will be an even greater demand for food. To ensure a safe and affordable food supply it is important we support the agriculture industry."

Agriculture contributes more than \$100 billion to the Texas economy each year and supports about 1.8 million agriculture-related jobs, ranging from journalism and advertising to commodity trading.

"More than just food and clothing, agriculture contributes to our homes, health, lifestyle and the prosperity of this country," Commissioner Staples said. "I ask all Texans to take time, especially during National Ag Week, to celebrate and thank our farmers and ranchers for their hard work, and for making Texas a powerhouse of agricultural productivity."

To learn more about Texas farmers and ranchers, and the everyday ways in which they improve our lives, visit our Agriculture is Your Culture page at TexasAgriculture.gov/culture.

For more on National Agriculture Week [click here](#).

-Release by Texas Department of Agriculture

Brangus Scholarship Opportunity

Youth involved with the Brangus breed are encouraged to apply for the International Red Brangus Breeders Association's 2013 Memorial Scholarship.

The application is available for both high school seniors and current college or trade school students.

Applications are due April 1 and can be found [here](#).

-Release by IRBBA

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](#).

March/April Calendar of Events

March:

22nd-24th:

TSCRA Convention

23rd:

West Texas Brangus Breeders Sale

Miller Brangus Sale

26th:

Genetrust at Suhn Cattle Company Registered Bull Sale

30th:

Salacoa Valley Farms Sale

April:

1st:

IRBBA Memorial Scholarship Application Due

19th-20th:

TBBA Annual Convention and Miss America Sale-
Tenroc Ranch, Salado, TX

27th:

Genetrust at Cavendar Ranch Registered Bull and
Commercial Female Sale

27th-28th:

IRBBA Annual Convention and Divas in Red Sale-
College Station, TX

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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