

## **TBBA Featured Breeder: Garry Clem Brangus**

Garry and Phyllis Clem's start in this business over 40 years ago was with commercial Brangus cattle, but they soon converted to registered cattle after purchasing a Cavalier 104 bull from Matt Syler. He was one of the highest rated bulls back in those days. Soon afterwards, they purchased some donor prospects from various breeders including Billy Harry in Sulphur Springs. One of these females was the matron of the 27 cow family. Shortly thereafter was the purchase of a young calf named Timber Too, a Rocky Joe 650 son. Garry always has had an eye for quality as this young bull was only six months old when he first saw him. With the leadership of Gary Cross, Timber Too went on to become the winningest bull in the Brangus breed. From that point they used different bloodlines and purchased cattle from various breeders. All avenues were successful in their own way.

The Clems have found that no one breeder or groups of breeders are superior in their programs. There are many breeders that have done and are doing excellent jobs with their cattle operations. Also they know that you don't have to have a large herd to have great cattle. They have proved that as their cattle numbers have been kept small, allowing them to concentrate on quality. They believe in their cattle as everyone should. The future of the Clem program centers on donor cows, donor prospects, ET calves and highly selected AI cattle. One of their top donor cows is 9U8 who produced Texas Star, a young and exciting bull who is starting to make his mark in the breed. There are other 9U8 calves at the Clem ranch following in his hoof prints.

All breeders should have a goal in mind and that is to produce the best cattle they can and those that don't measure up should be marketed commercially. A breeder's reputation is only as good as the cattle he produces. Garry and Phyllis believe if you raise quality registered cattle then you will never have to take a back seat to anyone.

Both Garry and Phyllis come from agricultural backgrounds. They each grew up on a family farm/ranch in East Texas and continue to raise cattle there. They love the lifestyle that comes with this business. Garry was active in FFA serving as president of his chapter while attending Troup High School. Phyllis attended school in Jacksonville and was active in the horse show world as well as riding in drill team for many years. They both pursued a higher education with Garry receiving a Master's in criminology and psychology and Phyllis earning a degree in education with an emphasis on math. She taught that subject at Jacksonville Middle School for 30 years.

For the first year of their married life they lived away from East Texas, but soon were able to come 'home' and start raising Registered Brangus cattle.

One thing that has made this business so enjoyable has been the people they have met and continue to meet. So many of them have become lifelong friends of the Clems. There are those who have passed on, but are remembered fondly.

Garry and Phyllis enjoy traveling and often are able to combine that with attending Brangus events. And if a golf course is nearby, even better.

After 43 years, their commitment to the Brangus breed is as strong as ever. That's evident since Garry has served on many committees, was President of TBBA in 2011 and continues to serve as a TBBA board member, always working to advance this breed of cattle.

Many cowboys take pride in 'riding for the brand'. Garry and Phyllis feel the same way about Brangus cattle and their gc brand.