



E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[Letter from the President](#)

[TBBA Featured Breeder](#)

[Beef Industry Taking Slow Turn](#)

[Beef Cattle Field Day](#)

[Sale Committee Report](#)

[Business Card Ads](#)

[Call for Photos](#)

[November/December Calendar of Events](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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Suggestions?

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any suggestions to the

Letter from the President

Fellow TBBA Members,

Isn't it great to see what GREEN grass does for cattle? I am amazed how well some of your herds are looking after seeing and eating grass for the first time, in some cases, months or even a year or two! This past week or so I had the opportunity to pass over the Brazos, Colorado and Nueces Rivers and they were flowing well, a sight I have not seen in some time! If nothing else it sure adjusts our attitudes, in my case, for the better!

The sale committee has sent notification out to our membership by USPS, a solicitation for nominations for the Miss America Sale in Salado. If you wish to nominate one or more of your cattle for the Salado Sale, as has been the practice for years, please send in your nomination to Gary Clem, Steve Densmore or the Association, so arrangements can be made to screen the nominations. All cattle will be screened by the sale committee to assure quality offerings will be available for offer at the sale next spring. If you have any questions about the criteria or type of offerings we are looking for please call Garry or Steve.

I trust you have been enjoying the "Featured Breeder" articles provided by Mollie and Russ Williamson each month. I feel this is an outstanding way to get to know breeders that ordinarily you may not come in contact with. I find it interesting how breeders got in the business, how long, lessons they have learned that may help others of us to avoid.

Until next time,

Joe Dillard, TBBA President

Facebook page or E-
Newsletter should be
sent to
mollie@txbrangus.org

**Texas Brangus
Breeders
Association**

**P.O. Box 690552
San Antonio, TX
78269**

210-558-0800

txbrangus.org

Featured Breeder: Tommy and Ruth Ann Milliorn

Tommy Milliorn's ranching career began in June of 1955, straight out of high school. He was hired to operate a dairy herd for Tell Smith whose son, Lee Smith, was drafted into the military service. With the help of Granddad Smith, he milked a dairy herd of 100-125 cows plus a farming operation for 2 years. Leaving there, Tommy started leasing land and started his own farming/ranching operation. He built the first pig parlor in the area, which housed 50 brood sows and started a cow/calf herd and operated it for the next five to six years.

Tommy learned from his cow/calf operation the importance of good bulls. Cross breeding using Brangus bulls on Angus and Hereford cross cows added 25 to 50 lbs. to the weaning weight, which swayed him to use Brangus all the way. Based on that philosophy, he built a large commercial Brangus herd with a few good registered Brangus cows.

Association with other livestock boards inspired Tommy to buy more registered cattle and developed a sizeable heifer replacement program. He showed heifers for several years in Ft. Worth, San Antonio and the Houston All Breed Heifer Show. Tommy participated in the very first Fort Worth Stock Show. He was awarded numerous show awards from 1990 through 1995 from the Ft. Worth, Houston and San Antonio shows for his quality cattle.

In the 1990's Jack Luther persuaded Tommy to join the West Texas Brangus Breeders Association and he began buying registered Brangus cattle. Tommy served many years as President, Vice President and board member and was the Sales Manager for the West Texas Brangus Breeders Association. He also joined the Texas Brangus Breeders Association, and has served as Director and Vice-President. Tommy thoroughly enjoyed working as a member of West Texas Brangus Breeders Association, Hill Country Brangus Breeders Association and Texas Brangus Breeders Association and has been a member of International Brangus Breeders Association for many years.

Ruth Ann Milliorn, Tommy's wife, has served as Secretary from 2005 thru 2007 and Secretary/Treasurer from 2007 thru 2012 for West Texas Brangus Breeders Association.

The Milliorn herd continues to grow with more registered cattle each year by going to other register sales, buying registered cows, heifers and good bulls and, to this date, runs a great herd of commercial cattle along with a nice herd of registered cattle. The Milliorns produce registered and commercial cattle for the West Texas Brangus Breeders Association and Hill Country Brangus Breeders Association Sales and for private treaty.

Association with the West Texas Brangus Breeders Association, Hill Country Brangus Breeders Association and Texas Brangus Breeders Association has been most enjoyable and rewarding and they have acquired many friends from being associated with Brangus people.

The Milliorns are located just outside of Abilene, Texas

Beef Industry to Make Slow Turn

URBANA, Ill. - The number of beef animals has been in a downward spiral since 2007 as a result of drought, which has ravaged pastures, and because of high prices of corn, soybean meal and forages. Although expansion is expected to start slowly, the beef industry is about to reverse a downward trend in numbers. According to a Purdue University Extension economist, prospects are brightening for a renewal of pastures and for a welcomed reduction in feed prices.

"Pastures and ranges have returned to favorable conditions for much of the country, including the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest and the Northern Great Plains," said Chris Hurt. "Improvement is also noted for the Central and Southern plains, although drought conditions are still lingering. Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas have received some recent rains that may help to continue the abatement of drought. Nationally, 73 percent of pastures are rated in the fair, good or excellent condition this year compared to only 46 percent at this time last year.

"Markets are expecting feed prices to drop sharply when new crop harvest gets under way. New crop corn prices are about \$2 per bushel lower than nearby bids, and fall soybean meal prices could be as much as \$200 per ton lower than current scarce old-crop offers," Hurt said.

Hurt said beef cow operations in some parts of the country where pastures have been restored are probably getting ready to retain heifers. Beef cow numbers have

declined in the Southeast by about 700,000 head, or 12 percent, since 2007. Midwest numbers have dropped by 680,000 head, or 14 percent, since 2007. Both of these areas should have the pasture and the feed to begin heifer retention. The Northern Plains is another area that is ripe for herd expansion.

"On the other hand, pasture and range recovery have not reached a critical mass for expansion in the Central and Southern plains and western United States," Hurt said. "These regions include 43 percent of the beef cows and have had a 14 percent drop in those numbers since 2007. More rain and more improvement in pastures and ranges will be required."

According to Hurt, the initial retention of heifers will likely occur this fall in areas primarily east of the Mississippi River, plus the Delta, the western Corn Belt, and the northern Great Plains. This is a large area that currently has 57 percent of the nation's beef cows.

"Lower feed prices alone will not be enough to get retention started, but higher calf prices will be required as well," Hurt said. "That process is also under way. Oklahoma 500- to 550-pound calves have increased by about 15 cents per pound since early June, and 600- to 650-pound steer calves have increased by 13 cents per pound. Current prices are \$1.65 and \$1.55 per pound, respectively."

However, Hurt added, these levels are not likely to stimulate any major beef cow herd expansion. It is more likely that prices of \$1.75 to \$2 may be required to convince brood cow operations to move aggressively toward more cows.

"The already low inventory of finished cattle and some added heifer retention will keep beef supplies falling in the coming 12 months," Hurt said. "USDA expects beef production to be down about 4 percent in the last half of 2013 and by 5 percent in the first half of 2014. This should provide the foundation for finished beef prices to average in the higher \$120s to low \$130s. These finished cattle prices, along with lower feed prices, should propel calf prices back to \$1.75 per pound and higher."

Finished cattle prices are expected to trade in the low \$120s per hundredweight in the third quarter but move to the higher \$120s for the final quarter of 2013. First half 2014 prices are expected to average near \$130, with early spring highs in the low to mid-\$130s. Calf and

feeder cattle prices should follow the finished cattle prices higher, especially as feed prices also drop.

"The industry may see the start of heifer retention this fall, but the magnitude of expansion is expected to be low and slow to get under way," Hurt said. "Beef cow producers know that expansion of the herd is a long-term investment and generally want an extended period of favorable returns before making major financial commitments. In addition, nearly half of the country's cows are in regions that have not yet fully emerged from the drought."

Hurt said prices of calves may need to move closer to \$2 per pound to provide the incentive that will provide for a more major beef expansion.

"Both the poultry and pork industries are set to increase production rapidly as feed prices decline," Hurt said. "Retail beef prices, already at record highs, will move even higher in the coming 12 months - at a time when poultry and pork price increases are moderating or even falling. This will mean stiff competition for beef among domestic and foreign consumers."

-Release by Debra Larson for Southern Livestock

Beef Cattle Field Day Dec. 10

SINTON - The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Nueces and San Patricio counties and the Nueces/San Patricio Livestock Task Force will present the Coastal Bend Beef Cattle Field Day from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the San Patricio Fairgrounds, 219 W. 5th St. in Sinton.

The event will provide several live demonstrations and an opportunity to earn Beef Quality Assurance credits, organizers said.

Program registration begins at 8:30; presentations at 9 a.m.

"This field day is designed for area livestock producers who are interested in maximizing their financial return on their existing herd, as well as those who might be looking into restocking and are wondering about the best way to accomplish that," said Jason Ott, AgriLife Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources in Nueces County.

Ott said the morning program will focus on calf management, including a discussion on what calf buyers are looking for and how that calf is managed as it enters the feedyard.

"This presentation will be given by Jay Gray, manager of Graham Land and Cattle," he said. "His discussion will be followed by a live demonstration on how to handle and properly process a calf. This will include proper chute-side manner, injection site placement, castration methods, identification and dehorning."

Dr. Joe Pascal, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist in Nueces County, will provide a discussion on hay value and evaluating and meeting cattles' nutritional needs.

"During this discussion, participants will have an opportunity to evaluate several different types of forages and bale conditions, then learn about the actual nutritional value in each of those bales," Ott said. "Hay values in relation to cottonseed meal or 20 percent cubes will also be addressed."

The remainder of the program will be spent discussing the future of the cattle industry and how it will be affected by current economic conditions.

"Manuel Vela, who works with product development at Central Life Sciences in Goliad, will provide a national perspective of the beef industry," he said. "Additional presenters will offer their insights into the cattle market outlook and the economics behind various cow replacement strategies."

The registration fee of \$20 includes a catered lunch. Seating is limited, so those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by Dec. 6 to the AgriLife Extension office in Nueces County at 361-767-5223.

-Release by Texas A&M AgriLife

Sale Committee Report

The TBBA Sale Committee is hard at work up grading the Salado Sale/Annual TBBA Convention. They are working to make this up coming sale (March 28-29, 2014) be the best ever. In doing so, they are asking EVERY TBBA member to please consider consigning one or two of your very best. This is an excellent way to advertise your program by the way. They are also asking all members

to participate in some way toward the convention/sale. It is also felt that we might offer a larger number of females in the sale in order to help keep our cost down. Please do your part by getting involved and keeping the TBBA strong .

Note: Now is the time to look your cattle over and make your selection. If you need ANY help, please call or e-mail us today. Don't wait!

TBBA Sale Chairmen,

Garry Clem
Steve Densmore

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.](#)

Nov./Dec. Calendar of Events

November:

15th:

Entry Deadline- Ft. Worth Junior Brangus Show

December:

1st:

Entry Deadline- San Antonio Junior Brangus and Junior Red Brangus Shows

Entry Deadline- Houston Junior Brangus and Junior Red Brangus Shows

15th:

Entry Deadline- San Antonio Open Brangus and Open Red Brangus Shows

Are you a TBBA member with an upcoming sale or field day? E-mail mollie@txbrangus.org to have it listed on the website and E-Newsletter calendar

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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