



E-Newsletter

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Suggestions?

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

Letter from the President

Fellow TBBA Members,

As this year of 2013 comes to a close (where did it go?), it is time to reflect on our successes and failures and plan for the new year, while we spend time with our family and friends during the Holiday Season. I am certain we all had our share of achievements and challenges this year and hope we all have learned valuable lessons from both.

Our sale committee is still looking for nominations for our "Miss America Sale" in March at Tenroc Ranch in Salado. Please contact Garry Clem or Steve Densmore for details. We look forward to seeing you at the TBBA annual meeting and sale!

Christmas and New Year's is upon us! I want to take this moment to wish each of you and your families a very special Merry Christmas and Happy and PROSPEROUS New Year! Please take time to reflect on how truly blessed we are and that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"!

May God bless and protect you this season and in the New Year!

Joe Dillard, TBBA President

Featured Breeder: Farris Ranching Company

Danny Farris grew upon on a small cattle operation in North Louisiana. His desire to be involved in the livestock business came from a lifetime of exposure to providing care for beef cattle.

In May 1983 Danny graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a B.S. in Animal Science. From there he went to West Texas State University and worked on a Masters of Ag while tending to the WTSU beef cattle

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herd. This was his first exposure to Brangus cattle.

In the fall of 1984 Danny and Mary Beth married. In June 1985 Farris was hired as manager of Escoba Cattle Company, a well established registered Brangus operation just south of Abilene, Texas. After ten years, he had the opportunity to purchase the Escoba herd. To date they have been operating as Farris Ranching Company. With God's grace, determination and a little luck he has managed to "cash flow" a seed stock operation. This has allowed their family a unique rural "ranch lifestyle" to enjoy. Danny and Mary Beth have enjoyed 29 years of marriage. Their children, Katelyn and Payton grew up in the "Brangus family." They have many fond memories of their IJBBA years. The Farris family enjoyed getting to know many fellow breeders over the past 28 years in the registered Brangus business and look forward to the years ahead.

In the past Danny has served as board member for the IBBA, TBBA, WTBBA and HCBBA. He also served as president of WTBBA two separate terms. Mary Beth, Kate and Pate have served in various capacities with the IBBA, IJBBA and TJBBA.

Farris has devoted his adult life to the Brangus breed. The demand for Brangus has provided for his family since 1985. They are devoted to advance this dynamic breed's long-term success in the beef industry.

Sale Report: Hill Country Brangus Breeders

The 38th Annual Hill Country Brangus Breeders Sale took place November 9, 2013 at Producer's Livestock Auction in San Angelo. Gary Bruns managed the sale.

Nineteen registered Brangus bulls grossed \$62,073, averaging \$3,267.

Thirty-two commercial Brangus bulls grossed \$72,064, averaging \$2,252.

The high selling bull, Lot 22, was consigned by JLS International of Devine. JLS Mighty Mouse 915Z49 sold for \$5,400.

Six open registered Brangus heifers averaged \$1,675.

Six open Ultrablack heifers averaged \$18,25.

Twelve commercial Brangus pairs averaged \$2,650.

-Report contributed by Bob Helmers.

Farm Bill to carry record ag trade

Over the course of 2013, we've seen yet another banner year for U.S. agricultural exports. Exports of U.S. farm and ranch products reached a record \$140.9 billion in 2013 and supported about a million U.S. jobs. In fact, compared to the previous five-year period from 2004-2008, U.S. agricultural exports from 2009-2013 increased by a total of nearly \$230 billion.

All told, the past five years represent the strongest five-year period in our nation's history for agricultural exports.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has focused on two key factors in recent years to help make this success possible. First, an unprecedented effort by USDA and our Federal partners to expand and grow markets around the world. Second, a commitment to make sure our farmers and ranchers have the tools to grow more, even in the face of uncertainty.

Thanks to the Farm Bill, particularly the Foreign Market Development Program and Market Access Program, USDA has been able to work with hundreds of U.S. businesses since 2009 to expand trade. We have led more than 150 U.S. agribusinesses on agricultural trade missions and helped more than 1,000 U.S. companies and organizations promote their wares at trade shows around the world.

Together, these trade promotion programs yield \$35 in economic benefits for every dollar invested. Unfortunately, without a new Farm Bill, these programs can't continue.

The trade promotion programs complement USDA efforts with our Federal partners to expand trade agreements and break down unfair barriers to trade. In the past five years, the Obama Administration has challenged more than 750 sanitary and phytosanitary trade barriers, compared to less than 400 such challenges in the previous five-year period. We've also helped achieve new trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, along with equivalency agreements for organic

products to Canada, the European Union and Japan.

But the Farm Bill stands at the heart of our trade promotion effort, and companies across the nation need a renewed commitment to agricultural trade promotion that only a new Farm Bill can provide.

As we have undertaken record efforts to promote U.S. trade, we're also hard at work here at home to help America's farmers and ranchers increase their productivity.

Since 2009, USDA has provided a record number of farm loans - more than 159,000 - to help farmers get started and keep growing. Additionally, using Farm Bill programs that have since expired, we stepped in to help hundreds of thousands of producers facing disaster. So, in addition to the many trade-related benefits of the Farm Bill, USDA is awaiting passage of this legislation to continue helping farmers and ranchers grow the food needed to drive exports even higher. A new Farm Bill would continue assistance to farm businesses through loans and loan guarantees, while also reauthorizing disaster assistance programs and providing retroactive help to livestock producers who have been hit particularly hard in the past two years.

American agriculture has been an economic success story in recent years - growing more despite adversity, sending more food around the world and creating more jobs here at home. There is even more success ahead, but we need a new Farm Bill as soon as possible to keep this record momentum going.

-Release by Sec. Tom Vilsack, published by
Drovers/Cattle Network

Antibiotic use to be regulated

In a bid to stem a surge in human resistance to certain antibiotics, U.S. regulators announced new guidelines to phase out their use as a growth enhancer in livestock.

The Food and Drug Administration said the antibiotics could still be used to treat illnesses in animals raised for meat, but should otherwise be pared back over the next three years under a voluntary program to keep them out of the human food supply.

Although voluntary, the agency said it expects

drugmakers to fully adhere to the new guidelines and on Wednesday announced that two of these biggest purveyors of those antibiotics had already agreed to narrow their use.

Doctors and hospitals have become increasingly worried in recent years by new strains of bacteria that cannot be controlled by a wide range of current antibiotics. Part of the suspected reason for the emergence of these "superbugs" is that people who have eaten meat that contained antibiotics develop resistance to the drugs as bacteria mutate to thwart them.

"Because antimicrobial drug use in both humans and animals can contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance, it is important to use these drugs only when medically necessary," the FDA said in a release.

In guidance issued on Wednesday, the FDA asked global drugmakers and animal health companies including Eli Lilly & Co and Zoetis to revise labels of medically important antibiotics by removing references to use in animal production.

Once companies remove farm production uses of their antibiotics from drug labels, it would become illegal for those drugs to be used for those purposes, Deputy FDA Commissioner Michael Taylor said in a conference call with journalists. The agency said about 25 animal health companies could be affected by the guidelines, especially Lilly and Zoetis.

Although the program is meant to be voluntary, Taylor said the FDA would be able to take regulatory action against companies that fail to comply.

The FDA's "final guidance," also brings the drugs under oversight of veterinarians by changing the over-the-counter status of the products.

The FDA said it will require animal pharmaceutical companies to notify the agency within three months of their intent to adopt its strategy. The companies would then have three years to complete the transition process.

CRITICS QUESTION ENFORCEMENT

Critics on Wednesday said the guidelines give drugmakers too much discretion in policing their own use

of antibiotics.

Democratic lawmaker Louise Slaughter called the FDA move an inadequate response to the overuse of antibiotics "with no mechanism for enforcement and no metric for success."

Her view was echoed by consumer and environmental advocacy groups.

"Our fear ... is that there will be no reduction in antibiotic use as companies will either ignore the plan altogether or simply switch from using antibiotics for routine growth promotion to using the same antibiotics for routine disease prevention," said Steven Roach, senior analyst with advocacy group Keep Antibiotics Working.

Morningstar analyst David Krempa said the FDA issued similar voluntary guidelines in April 2012, meant to limit use of important antibiotics in food-producing animals, but they appear to have been largely ignored by farmers. He said compliance with the FDA's latest set of voluntary guidelines could be equally spotty.

"Compliance will be tough because all the farmers and meat producers know these products increase the size of their animals," Krempa said. "They can continue to use them, and just say there's a disease going through their herds."

But even if antibiotics use in livestock indeed comes down, Krempa said it would be only a "small negative" for Zoetis because it, like other animal health companies, sells such a wide range of products for both livestock and pets.

The FDA said it had already received support for the new measures from Zoetis and Elanco, a unit of Eli Lilly, which sell a large percentage of the products that will eventually be phased out.

Elanco said in a statement that it would voluntarily narrow use of antibiotics used to treat both humans and animals "only to therapeutic purposes of treating, controlling and preventing diseases in animals under the supervision of a veterinarian."

Other companies with animal health businesses include Merck & Co, Novartis AG, Sanofi and Bayer AG.

Bayer and Sanofi said the FDA strategy would not affect the types of products they sell, but both companies said they support the FDA's position.

"It is important that these medically important antibiotics are used responsibly and with veterinary oversight," a Bayer spokeswoman said.

-Release by Reuters

Water quality workshop Feb. 18

NACOGDOCHES - A Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on water quality issues related to the Angelina River will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 18 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for Nacogdoches County, located in the courthouse annex at 203 W. Main, Nacogdoches.

The free training is open to anyone interested in improving water quality in the Nacogdoches region, said program coordinators. Participants are encouraged to preregister at the Texas Watershed Steward website at <http://tws.tamu.edu>.

The workshop is presented by AgriLife Extension and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in coordination with the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers Community Based Organization.

A light lunch will be provided by the Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers organization.

"The workshop is designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by becoming involved in local watershed protection and management activities," said Galen Roberts, AgriLife Extension program specialist and coordinator for the Texas Watershed Steward Program.

Roberts said the workshop will include an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas, but will primarily focus on water quality issues relating to the Angelina River, including current efforts to help improve and protect water in the area.

The training will include a discussion of watershed systems, types and sources of water pollution, and ways to improve and protect water quality. There also will be a group discussion on community-driven watershed

protection and management.

"The Angelina River is an important resource for the area," said Jamie Sugg, AgriLife Extension agent for Nacogdoches County. "The river is a part of the urban and rural character of this region. It is a source of water for municipal supply, agriculture, fishing, recreational activities and wildlife habitat."

Sugg said he wants to encourage stakeholders to attend the workshop and to become more engaged in water quality improvement efforts.

Along with the free training, participants receive a free copy of the Texas Watershed Steward Handbook and a certificate of completion. The program also offers four continuing education units in soil and water management for certified crop advisors, four units for professional engineers and certified planners, and four continuing education credits for certified teachers. It also offers three general continuing education units for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders, four for certified landscape architects and three for certified floodplain managers.

"Participating in the Texas Watershed Steward program is a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in your watershed," Roberts said.

For more information and to preregister, go to <http://tws.tamu.edu> or contact Roberts at 979-862-8070, groberts@ag.tamu.edu, or Sugg at 936-560-7711, jdsugg@ag.tamu.edu.

The Texas Watershed Steward program is funded through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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-Release by Texas A&M AgriLife

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.](#)

Jan./Feb. Calendar of Events

January:

15th:

TBBA Miss America Sale Consignment Deadline

25th:

Junior Brangus Show- Fort Worth Stock Show, 8 a.m.

February:

4th:

NCBA Convention and Trade Show- Nashville, TN

7th:

San Antonio Open Show Check-In

9th:

San Antonio Open International Brangus, International Red Brangus shows

11th:

San Antonio Junior Red Brangus Check-In

12th:

San Antonio Junior Brangus Check-In

13th:

San Antonio Junior Red Brangus Show- Judge: Deb Core, IA

14th:

San Antonio Junior Red Brangus Show- Judge: Deb Core, IA

12th:

San Antonio All Breeds Sale

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.