

TBBA Featured Breeder: Skyhawk Brangus

Skyhawk Brangus had its beginning in 1980 with just a few commercial cows in Athens, TX on about 95 acres of land. As an airline commercial pilot and a Marine Corps Officer and pilot, my time was limited on the small ranch, but I knew some day those jobs would be over and I could devote more time. In 1986 I retired from the Marine Corps and retired in 2002 from the airline job and that gave me the time to develop my ranch and cattle. Late in the 1980's I realized that a registered operation would be a better use of the land and possibly be more profitable.

As a youngster I was raised on a farm that had 100 head of registered Angus cows, therefore I was familiar with seed stock operations. In 1986 I purchased the 235 acres near Tyler, TX which became the current home of Skyhawk Brangus.

The operation struggled through the early years while I was still flying with the airlines due to not putting 100% of my efforts into my breeding. In 2005 I purchased a pick of a flush from a 23D2 daughter that I thought was the prettiest cow ever and a bull called "Fred" a 99K2 son which I also really liked. The rest was history; the bull that I selected out of that flush was "Presidente." Because advertising is so expensive, I decided to market this great bull through the show ring. We drug this bull all over for two years and in 2008 he tied with another bull named Rock Star owned by the Hillin's for Show Bull of the Year. Many show bulls do not make it as producers of great calves, but Presidente has and he has made this ranch successful. Presidente was Show Sire of the Year in 2011 and is leading points this year for the same honor.

Early on, I was resistant to selling my good cattle, but I changed that after thinking "how do people know what you are producing if you don't sell it?" So many breeders keep the good ones and sell the culls. We have had a few production sales and have decided that it was way too expensive for this size operation. Private treaty works best for us.

We artificially breed almost every cow on the place and use a Presidente son to clean up. The best thing about Presidente and his sons is their consistency. The calves are low birth weight and very stylish.

Skyhawk Brangus profits from the development of commercial bulls and a few herd sires for registered breeders. We also sell a few show calves each year. Every once in a while we get a new breeder in that wants to start a new cattle operation and that is really exciting.

Pam and still show bulls at all the major show because we love working with animals and we are proud of what we produce. In addition we have made many new friends who also show. It's a great way to market your animals and have a good time doing it.

Skyhawk is located 5 miles east of Tyler, TX . Our web site is skyhawkbrangus.com and our email address is skyhawkbrangus@yahoo.com