



E-Newsletter

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Suggestions?

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

Letter from the President

Dear Texas Brangus Breeders,

This is Russ Williamson and I'm sitting in for your President Joe Dillard this week.

I just returned from the Junior Heifer Show in Ft. Worth where Tanner Miller took the honors as Grand Champion there. Congratulations to him. It is a busy few months coming up with San Antonio next week then Houston in March. Our convention and sale is the end of March. I honestly don't know how a working man or woman can fit all these events in, not to mention the cost of travel now.

The "Miss America Sale" in Salado this year has returned to a Friday night event on March 28th with a cocktail hour and dinner. The convention meeting will be held Saturday morning. AMS will be managing the sale with about 40 head of elite registered Brangus cattle. For those of you that have cattle in the sale, the video schedule will be announced soon, so get your cattle clipped and cleaned for that. It will happen very soon and probably without much notice. Also send your notes and pedigrees to Mark Cowan at AMS. The Catalog will be put together very soon.

It is calving and breeding season and I can't emphasize too much the importance of artificial insemination. Breeding seed stock animals is like flying an aircraft: you are always correcting. Each animal you own needs more of something or less of something and you need to determine that. You can look at a cow's last calf and its sire. If it is perfect, don't change a thing and breed her the same way. Usually there is something you would change and that's where you need knowledge of the available bulls. If you don't know, there are professionals out there that can help. Don't just keep breeding the same way. The price of a very good calf far outweighs the cost of

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artificial insemination. A good Commercial bull will bring \$3500 and up, and a good show calf may bring even more. In summary, keep trying to improve our cattle. We have come a long way in the last few years. If you don't think that, pick up a Brangus Journal from the 80's or 90's and compare the champions then to now. I did and was amazed.

Hope the New Year has been good for all of you. See you soon at one of the shows or conventions.

Sincerely,

Russ

TJBBA Junior Connection

It's been a while, but I'm certainly glad to be back. Time continues to fly so quickly that if we blink, we may just miss it. Believe it or not it's that time of the year once again, and with one already under our belt, the 2014 major stock show season is in full swing. Not only is this a busy time for junior exhibitors, but also for ranches and showmen alike with the rapid approach of San Antonio and Houston open shows in a mere few weeks.

Fort Worth junior heifer exhibitors all did an excellent job as judge Ryan Cotton sorted through more than 100 head of Brangus heifers Saturday, January 25th. Grand Champion Heifer honors went to Tanner Miller followed by Audrey Acord with the Reserve Grand Champion win. As the days' events unfolded and 4 o'clock rolled around the annual FWSSR TJBBA General Membership meeting was called to order and the 2014 TJBBA State Show was announced. In Bryan, Texas June 19-21st "We're All One Team in 2014" for three days of fun, friends, and friendly competition. Members' old and new showed excitement for the show to soon come as we all made a few new friendships. Fort Worth was then a wrap as we placed San Antonio on our radar.

With springtime in mind, most folks are beginning to plan out their garden schemes and what their landscape will probably look like. In the cattle industry, we care about our landscape and scenery too, but a slightly different version of it. With the spring comes an abundance of cattle sales across Texas. My favorite is only two short months away, the TBBA Miss America Sale and Convention in Salado, Texas March 28th and 29th. Last year the TBBA invited the juniors to join them for this

event and three generous heifer donors donated the proceeds of the choice lot to the TJBBA for the betterment of the association. On behalf of the TJBBA and Board of Directors, I would like to thank Skyhawk Brangus, Lingg Brangus, and JLS International once again for their contribution. Adding a twist and something new with desirable genetics, this years' donation heifer will be a young, red, show heifer prospect with a world of potential generously donated by McDonald Ranches. Be sure to stay tuned for further details of the sale and McR Miss Red Ace 231/3.

-Contributed by Adrian Whipple, TJBBA President

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

2014 TJBBA Donation Female

The 2014 TJBBA donation female is McR Miss Red Ace 231/3, donated by McDonald Ranches. Born April 17, 2013, McR Miss Red Ace 231/3 is a first generation 3/8 X 5/8 heifer sired by Weid's Red Ace 43T, a sire owned by MBJ Ranch.

She is a moderate, deep bodied heifer that comes from one of the McDonald's best producing half-blood cows.

Here is a package that offers an opportunity to bring in some new genetics, top-end performance and productivity.

She will sell in the 2014 Miss America Sale in Salado March 28-29, with proceeds benefiting the Texas Junior Brangus Breeders Association.

For questions about this female or the Miss America Sale, contact Steve Densmore.



Senate Discusses Farm Bill

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) filed a cloture motion that will require 60 votes for passage, clearing the way for a vote on final passage on Tuesday.

The nearly \$1 trillion agricultural policy was debated by the senators.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) told lawmakers that the bill would provide a much-needed boost for beginning farmers and ranchers, noting that the average age of a U.S. farmer is 57 years old. Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) spoke in appreciation of livestock disaster programs, while Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) said he will not support the legislation due to the lack of necessary reforms for the national's farm programs, federal nutrition programs and burdensome regulations.

President Obama is expected to receive a five-year farm bill next week from Congress, according to Agri-Pulse.

-Release by Texas Farm Bureau

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.](#)

Feb./March Calendar of Events

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

March:

3rd:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Brangus Move-In

6th:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Brangus Weigh/Measure

7th:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Open International Brangus Show (bulls)- 8 a.m., Judge: Carlos Ojea, Argentina

8th:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Open International Brangus Show (females)- 9 a.m.
Genetic Edge Sale- 7 p.m.

Star of Texas Fair Junior Brangus Show- Judge: Blake Nelson, Oklahoma

13th-16th:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Junior Red Brangus Show- Judge: Kevin Jensen, Kansas

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Junior Brangus Show- Judge: Jason Rountree, Michigan

21st:

West Texas Brangus Breeders Spring Sale Viewing- Abilene Livestock Auction, Abilene, Texas

22nd:

West Texas Brangus Breeders Spring Sale- Abilene Livestock Auction, Abilene, Texas *viewing still available the morning of sale day*

28th-29th:

Texas Brangus Breeders Association Annual Meeting & Miss America Sale- Tenroc Ranch, Salado, Texas

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.