



E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[Letter from the President](#)

[TJBBA Junior Connection](#)

[Upcoming Deadlines](#)

[Ranchers Worry About
Brazilian Beef](#)

[Hay Production and
Management Workshop](#)

[Business Card Ads](#)

[Call for Photos](#)

[May/June Calendar of
Events](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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Suggestions?

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any

Letter from the President

Fellow Members & Breeders,

I need to introduce myself as your new President. My name is Doug Muenchow. My wife Darnell and I own and operate Muenchow Farms a Registered Brangus operation in Floresville, Texas. I have been in the cattle and livestock business all of my life. We bought our first Registered Brangus in November of 2009 and have been building our herd since then. We have been very happy with the breed and all the fellow breeders that I gotten to know and become friends with. I will never become the biggest breeder in the business, but I hope to become one of the better breeders in the business.

This first letter may not have anything educational, but what I would like is to hear from you on what things you would like to have addressed in these letters. I would like to know what area's need improvement and what things you feel should not be included in the letters. I had a breeder tell me at the JLS sale last week that the Association does not do anything for the breeders, this upset me a little. The only way we can get the things done is to do it with a team effort. I would like to say that all my Fellow Board Members are trying very hard to improve the breed and the Association.

I have been trying to attend as many events in the breed as I possibly can so if you see me, please introduce yourself. I would love to get to know each of you that I have not met yet.

In my closing I would like to let you know that you can feel free to contact me at anytime with any concerns you may have about our business. I will include my cell phone number and email address below for the purpose.

There was a Old Saying that I heard as a kid that has

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

**Texas Brangus
Breeders
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always stuck with me and I think it kind of applies to all of us: "SITTING AROUND AND WISHING MAKES NO PERSON GREAT, THE GOOD LORD SENDS THE FISHING, BUT YOU MUST DIG THE BAIT".

Sincerely,

Doug

Texas Brangus Breeders Association President

Cell:

Muenchow
210-394-1952

Email: cattlemadoug@aol.com

TJBBA Junior Connection

For juniors across the state of Texas, there is one specific thing burning in our minds causing the extra spring in our step; summer. Summer is the one time of year when we feel empowered to do whatever our hearts desire- stay up late, wake up early to enjoy the long hot summer days, and spend time with your friends and family; all of which can be experienced at the TJBBA State Show. Combining our passion for Brangus cattle and need for summer fun, the State Show is the perfect opportunity to ignite your summer and the flame that burns in us all.

In just one short month, TJBBA members will be loading up their trailers and family with one common destination in the headlights; College Station, Texas. After having the TJBBA State Show in Brenham for numerous consecutive years, a change of scenery is long overdue. The Brazos County Expo center will serve as Brangus headquarters June 19-21st as we mingle with one another and make for another show full of fun and competition. Preparation is in full swing and soon to be recognized as the board of directors are ensuring a smooth sailing and impactful show. Don't miss out on 3 days of Brangus activities and memories as we wrap up another show for the books.

Each and every person is faced with specific challenges as well as goals. As to how we accomplish both, is totally up to us. Pushed out into a sea of fears and obstacles, we can't help, but feel like we're drowning and it may even extinguish our flame. Keeping your head above the water is vital to your survival, and you never know when you'll find your lifejacket. When "We're All One Team in 2014" at the TJBBA State Show, I have no doubt that you'll accomplish just that and more. Be sure to join us in College Station, Texas for the TJBBA State Show to ignite your flame and set sail.

-Adrian Whipple, TJBBA President

May Deadlines Approaching

Entry and ownership deadlines for the National Junior Brangus Show are fast approaching. All entries for the show are due by May 15. The ownership deadline is May 25.

The NJBS will be held in Bryan-College Station, Texas July 20-25. More information can be found at <http://junior.gobrangus.com/>.

Ranchers Worry about Brazilian Beef

The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to greenlight a proposal that would allow imports of fresh beef from certain sections of Brazil, despite the South American country's history of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, a highly contagious pathogen that cripples cattle.

The U.S. hasn't had an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in more than 80 years. In Brazil, the latest recorded outbreak was in 2006, though it occurred in an area that would not be allowed to export to the U.S. under the proposed rule. Brazil already exports processed and cooked beef to the U.S.

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in other countries have led to mass slaughter of animals and put a kibosh on any beef trade, causing huge economic damage in the billions of dollars.

USDA officials say little risk exists of the disease hitching a ride to the U.S. on packages of meat, citing a 85-page risk analysis. But many U.S. ranchers are still wringing their hands.

"We feel that the risk analysis is robust and it's out there for the public to scrutinize."

"We certainly understand the concerns, yes, the concern that we'd be putting the U.S. livestock industry at risk by allowing these imports," said Gary Colgrove, a director with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which oversees trade relationships.

"However, we feel that the risk analysis is robust and it's out there for the public to scrutinize," Colgrove said.

A foot-and-mouth disease outbreak would be devastating, according to the risk assessment. In fact, the pathogen has such a reputation for causing economic destruction it's been tossed around as a possible terrorist weapon. Colgrove said all the fear surrounding the Brazilian beef proposal is unwarranted.

Brazil's Department of Agriculture has proven its ability to contain and control the disease, the USDA maintains. The country has been vaccinating cattle against foot-and-mouth for years. When American inspectors visited Brazil over the past decade, ports were well staffed and a system of permits to keep the disease in check was up to speed. Plus, many say, accepting imports from Brazil could pave the way for U.S. beef exports to the emerging world power.

That's not enough to convince many American ranchers. Comments on the proposal totaled 618, most of which derided the proposed rule as reckless, irresponsible and unnecessary.

Sharon Harvat and her husband John run their cattle outside Scottsbluff, Neb., in the state's western panhandle. Their hundreds of heifers calve during the spring, and when all the calves are born, they move them to the mountains in northern Colorado to graze. When news of the beef trade proposal popped up in a trade magazine, Harvat said she felt a pit in her stomach.

"On an operation like ours, where we travel a lot with our cattle, that would probably come to an abrupt halt if there was an outbreak," Harvat said.

"I would imagine it would spread like wildfire. And then what would that do to the ag economy? It would shut it down."

Even though foot-and-mouth disease rarely transmits to humans, it's contagious in livestock, and spreads rapidly in cloven-hoofed beasts, domesticated or wild.

"I would imagine it would spread like wildfire," Harvat said. "And then what would that do to the ag economy? It would shut it down."

Studies that simulated foot-and-mouth outbreaks have shown potential economic damage to be in the billions of dollars in the United States. Quarantines and mass

slaughter of cattle are costly. Another big cost would be shattered trade relationships with countries that purchase American beef. A recently rolled out model from Colorado State University researchers shows little is known about how cattle are moved throughout the country, which could stymie efforts to contain a possible outbreak.

"We cannot jeopardize the health of our domestic herd just for the sake of opening a market," said Colin Woodall with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the country's biggest beef lobby group. The association hasn't dismissed the proposal outright, instead is urging the USDA to move slowly. The group has submitted records requests for additional background data used to prepare the proposed rule. That data hasn't been released, Woodall said.

"We have a lot of friends in Congress who are very interested and concerned about this particular issue and they would probably be more than happy to engage if it got to that point," Woodall said.

"We will have very high ground beef prices and you can mitigate that a little bit with Brazilian beef."

Ranchers are worried about more than just the specter of possible disease. Trade deals like this bring economic consequences too. By now, grill masters have noticed record high beef prices at the grocery store and the USDA said the inclusion of Brazilian beef could bring them down, though probably to a negligible degree.

"We're very short on ground beef. We will have very high ground beef prices, and you can mitigate that a little bit with Brazilian beef," said Steve Koontz, an agricultural economist at Colorado State University.

The added beef supply could bring down American grocery store prices, and Koontz said that's good news for consumers and fast food joints, and bad news for the poultry industry that has seen an influx of consumers as beef prices became tough to swallow.

At the same time, it's also potentially bad news for ranchers like Sharon Harvat, who could see the price she receives at the sale barn drop too.

"I know there's a shortage of beef in this country," Harvat said. "And that's why the prices are so high. But is that enough to justify our food security?"

The comment period on the USDA proposal closed April 22. A final decision from the USDA on allowing Brazilian beef isn't expected for months.

-Release by KUNC

Hay Production & Management Workshop

FRANKLIN - Hay production and management strategies, plus several presentations on co-existing with wildlife will highlight the 28th annual O.D. Butler Field Day scheduled May 16 at Camp Cooley Ranch.

The ranch is located at 4297 Camp Cooley Ranch Road in Franklin. The field day is hosted by Circle X Land and Cattle Company-Camp Cooley Division.

"Activities and presentations at this year's field day will include six tour stops of demonstrations," said Edward Schneider, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for Robertson County. "Other activities will include a contest with prizes as part of the hay value stop, a program on co-existing with wildlife on your ranch, information from Texas Farm Bureau on the June 2-6 Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum, sponsor booth visitation and door prizes."

Registration is \$25 and includes refreshments, a barbecue lunch and printed materials with information from the various outdoor stops and indoor presentations. Schneider said attendees can find directions to the O.D. Butler Field Day on the AgriLife Extension Robertson County Facebook page or request them by email at robertson-tx@tamu.edu . He also said field day signs will be placed along the way to the ranch.

Call the AgriLife Extension office in Robertson County at 979-828-4270 or the AgriLife Extension Brazos County office at 979-823-0129 to preregister for the meal count.

Topics and speakers include:

- Discussion and demonstration of nozzle selection for the best control of sandburs. Dr. Paul Baumann, AgriLife Extension state weed specialist, College Station.
- Discussion of three-yaupon control plots on the Camp Cooley Ranch and an ongoing grass clipping demonstration, Dr. Barron Rector, AgriLife Extension state range specialist, College Station, and James Jackson, AgriLife Extension range program specialist,

Stephenville.

- Economic value of hay, Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension state forage specialist, College Station.
- Soil renovation at a recent renovation demonstration site - effectiveness versus cost, Dr. Tony Provin, AgriLife Extension soil chemist, College Station.
- Soil preparation for sprigging or seeding grasses, Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, AgriLife Extension, forage specialist, Overton.
- Weed and grass control in newly established Bermuda grasses, Josh McGinty, AgriLife Extension weed control program assistant, College Station.

Numerous demonstration plots will be available for attendees to view. Some of these include grasshopper control plots and weed plots, according to organizers.

"The last portion of the program will be held in the air conditioned sale pavilion," Schneider said. "The afternoon will focus on co-existing with wildlife and will include updates on feral hogs and white-tailed deer as well as birds and smaller mammals. Dr. James Cathey, AgriLife Extension program leader for wildlife and fisheries in College Station, will present the program."

Tracy Tomascik with Texas Farm Bureau will conclude the program with a brief discussion on the upcoming Texas Beef Checkoff Referendum.

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-Release by Texas AgriLife Today

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.](#)

May/June Calendar of Events

May:

15th:

NJBS Entry Deadline

25th:

NJBS Ownership Deadline

31st:

"The Event" Red Brangus Sale- Brenham, TX

June:

1st:

Brangus Futurity Entry Deadline

18th:

Beef Improvement Federation Symposium- Lincoln, NE
TJBBA State Show- College Station, TX

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.