



E-Newsletter

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Letter from the Sales Chairman

Dear TBBA Members:

As your sales chairman this letter will inform you of the planned activities for the 2015 Miss America Sale and TBBA convention at The Tenroc Ranch in Salado, TX March 27 and 28, 2015.

There are several important changes when compared to last year's schedule. We have moved the sale to Saturday evening at 6:00 pm with all the activities preceding the sale on Saturday. This allow attendees to attend all activities without having to spend the night if they desire. Cattle will arrive on Friday and be in place by 6 pm with a social activity planned for consigners and those members who desire to come in Friday night. The Board Meeting will be Saturday morning with the meal at noon and the general Membership meeting following the meal at 12:30 pm. Web Site training with the IBBA staff will follow the general membership meeting. Since last year there were very few that participated in the dance after the sale, we will not have any entertainment this year.

This year's sale will include approximately 50 lots of the best Brangus cattle we can find. Last year's sale set a record with over a \$4000.00 average per lot and with prices the way they are now there is no reason to believe we cannot set the bar even higher. Also we will not run the cattle through the ring this year. All cattle we be available for viewing but will be videoed and that video will be displayed during the auction in the ring and the internet. Load out will be available after the sale or Sunday morning for those staying. We are still getting bids for meals and it

Suggestions?

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any suggestions to the Facebook page or E-Newsletter should be sent to mollie@txbrangus.org

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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is unclear at this time if we will offer a meal after the sale. This year we will send an RSVP to get a better handle on the planned attendance

The Sales Committee: myself, as chairman plus Steve Densmore and Garry Clem will screen the nominated cattle. AMS will manage the sale and will be selecting cattle. If you would like AMS to pick your nomination, you may contact them. This service will be a private arrangement between you and AMS. Nomination forms will be available soon so start thinking of your nominations. This sale is put on for your benefit and to allow you to show off your best breeding. Web site advertising will also be auctioned off prior to the sale.

Any comments or suggestions are welcome. Please contact me at skyhawkbrangus@yahoo.com with your suggestions.

Thanks,
Russ Williamson
Sale Committee Chairman

Potential Beef Imports from Argentina

In a move that drew immediate criticism, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that it will add the Patagonia Region of Argentina to the list of regions considered free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and rinderpest. The proposed rule was published in the Aug. 28 Federal Register.

The move opens the export gates, allowing that region of Argentina to export live cattle and fresh and frozen beef to the U.S.

In a Stakeholder Announcement, APHIS defended its decision, saying, "In response to the Government of Argentina's request to recognize the Patagonia Region as FMD-free, APHIS conducted an assessment.

"Based on the assessment, APHIS determined that FMD is not present in the Patagonia Region of Argentina, and that the surveillance prevention, and control measures implemented by Argentina in that particular region were sufficient to minimize the likelihood of introducing FMD into

the United States through the importation of susceptible ruminants and ruminant commodities. It is important to note that rinderpest has never been established in South America-no South American country has ever reported the disease except Brazil and it was quickly eradicated nearly a century ago.

"While the Patagonia Region will be declared free of FMD, the region will be added to the list of regions that are subject to certain restrictions designed to lessen the risk of introducing FMD into the United States, in accordance with APHIS regulations. These restrictions ensure that there is no commingling of products from regions with a lesser animal health status."

The proposal drew immediate fire from cattlemen, including Bob McCan, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). In a statement, the Victoria, TX, rancher says NCBA is deeply concerned by the proposal.

"Our extreme concern is only further magnified by the associated proposed rule to allow chilled or frozen beef to be imported from the region of Northern Argentina. Northern Argentina is a region that is not recognized as being free of FMD by APHIS. We strongly believe that these recent actions by APHIS present a significant risk to the health and well-being of the nation's cattle herd through the possible introduction of FMD virus," McCan says.

The South Texas cattleman points out that FMD is an extremely contagious viral disease of cloven-hooved animals and many wildlife species. "This disease is considered to be one of the most economically devastating livestock diseases in the world and an outbreak of FMD could ultimately threaten the entire U.S. economy as well jeopardize our national food security," he says.

APHIS conducted its risk analysis based on a series of site visits to Argentina to determine the FMD risk status of these regions, according to McCan. "NCBA's repeated requests for written reports for these APHIS site visits to Argentina have gone unanswered. Finally, we were informed by APHIS that written reports are not required for

APHIS site reviews. This lack of documentation and an obvious lack of management controls for the site review process calls into question the integrity and quality assurance for the entire risk analysis. Valid science-based decisions are not possible in this flawed system," McCan says.

"It is evident that APHIS has charged blindly forward in making this announcement, ignoring the findings of a third-party scientific review identifying major weaknesses in the methodology of the risk analysis that formed the foundation for the APHIS decision-making process. The third-party scientific review uncovered deficiencies in the APHIS hazard analysis and the exposure assessment, as well as an overly subjective qualitative format for the risk analysis.

"NCBA remains committed to supporting open trade markets, level playing fields, and utilizing science-based standards to facilitate international trade. At the same time, no amount of trade is worth sacrificing the health and safety of the U.S. cattle herd. Strict transparency for the adherence to sound science must be the basis for all animal health decisions of this magnitude," McCan says. Meanwhile, the U.S. Meat Export Federation confirmed that U.S. beef does not have access to Argentina due to BSE-related restrictions.

The proposed rule to allow Argentina to export chilled and frozen beef to the U.S. follows an earlier proposal by USDA to expand Brazil's ability to export beef to the U.S. The comment period on that proposed rule closed in April, but so far, USDA has not issued a final rule.

Public comment for the proposed rule concerning imports from Argentina is open until Oct. 28.

-Release by BEEF Magazine

Livestock & Farm Income Drop

U.S. farm income is expected to fall 14 percent in 2014, to its lowest level in four years, as expectations for record corn and soybean crops have pushed commodity prices to

their lowest in several years, the Agriculture Department said this week.

The USDA said net farm income is forecast to be \$113 billion in 2014, down from \$131 billion in 2013.

"The 2014 forecast would be the lowest since 2010, but would remain \$25 billion above the previous 10-year average," the government said in its farm income forecast. "Lower cash receipts for crops and, to a lesser degree, higher production expenses and reduced government farm payments, drive the expected drop in net farm income."

The latest forecast from USDA marks a sharp upward revision from February's initial forecast when the federal government predicted farm income to decline 27 percent to \$95.8 billion.

The outlook reflects a stronger increase in the profitability of the livestock sector where farmers are benefiting from record prices for beef and pork prices and cheap feed prices, a sharp reversal from the drought-ravaged 2012 when ranchers chose to cull herds rather than pay more to feed their animals. Cash receipts for livestock owners are expected to surge 15 percent to \$210 billion, the USDA said.

U.S. farmers will harvest a record haul of corn and soybeans this fall as fields throughout much of the Corn Belt experience some of the best growing conditions in years, the USDA said earlier this month. An estimated 14.03 billion bushels of corn and 3.82 billion bushels of soybeans, both the largest on record, are expected to be produced. In Iowa, the country's largest corn and second-biggest soybean producer, farmers are forecast to harvest 2.44 billion bushels of corn and 502 million bushels of soybeans.

The plentiful corn crop, a result of timely rains and relatively mild temperatures in most areas this season, has pushed prices to \$3.55 a bushel, their lowest level in nearly four years, and down sharply from more than \$8 a bushel in 2012. Similar multi-year lows also have been notched in soybeans.

USDA said crop receipts are expected to decrease \$15 billion, or 7 percent to \$201 billion, led by a \$13 billion decline in corn.

Overall, farm expenses are forecast to rise 4 percent to a record \$368 billion in 2014, which would be the fifth consecutive annual increase, due to higher costs for seeds, fertilizer and pesticides.

-Release by Des Monies Register

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](#).

Sept./Oct. Calendar of Events

September:

7th:

Entry Deadline- Brangus Show of Merit

20th:

Western National Brangus Show- Oklahoma City, OK

26th:

Southeast Regional Junior Brangus Show- Lake City, FL

October:

2nd:

Brangus Fall Conference- San Antonio, TX

11th:

CX Advantage Brangus Sale Cox Excalibur Ranch-
Weimar, TX

18th:

Doguet Diamond D Ranch Sale- Poteet, TX

25th:

Brangus Show of Merit- Shreveport, LA
Oak Creek Farms Forage Tested Bull Sale- Chappell Hill,
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.