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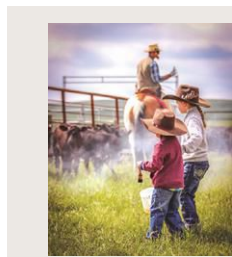
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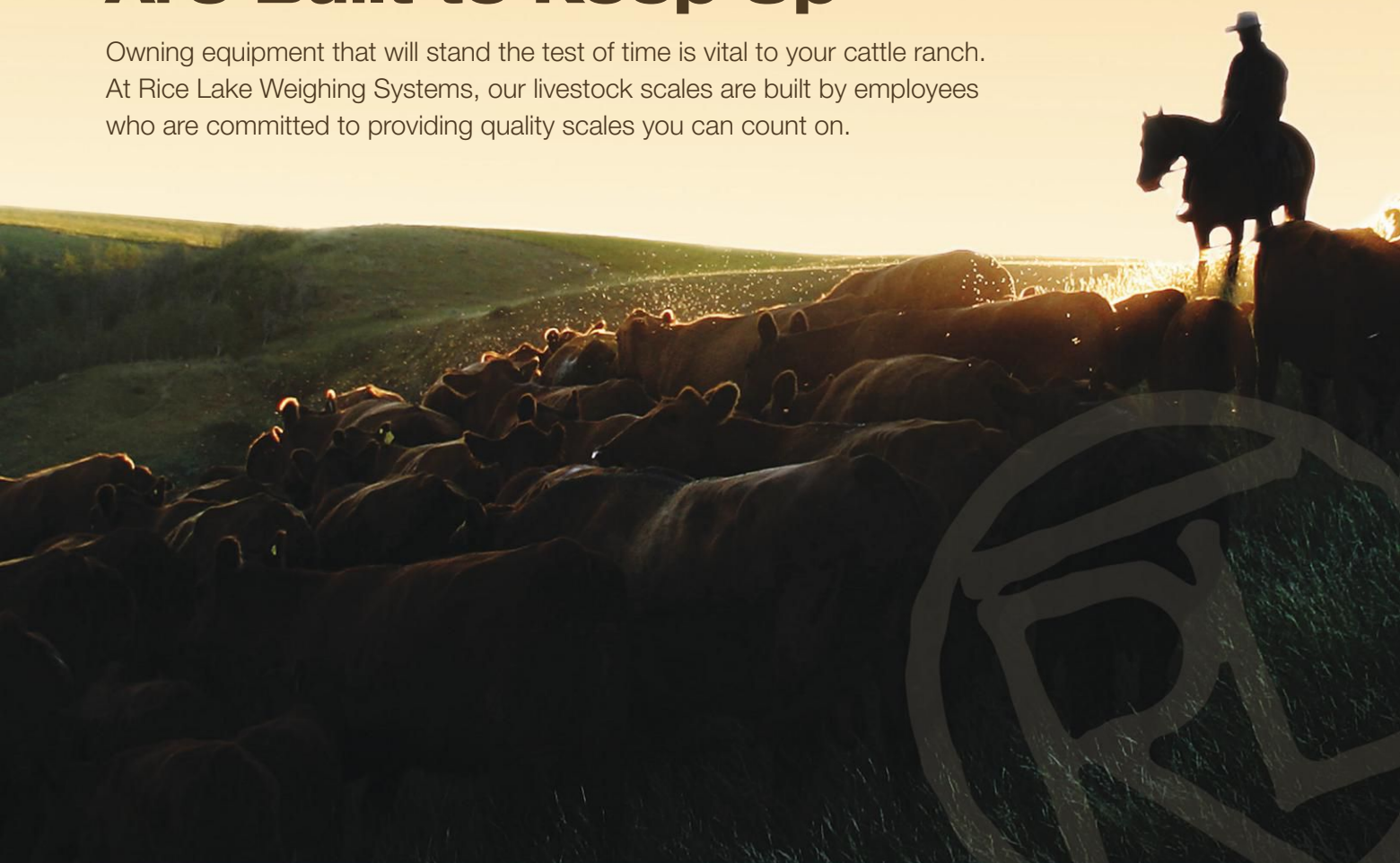
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By the K-State Livestock & Meat Industry Council

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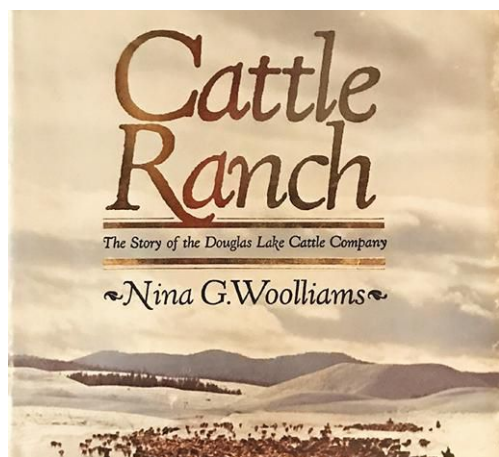
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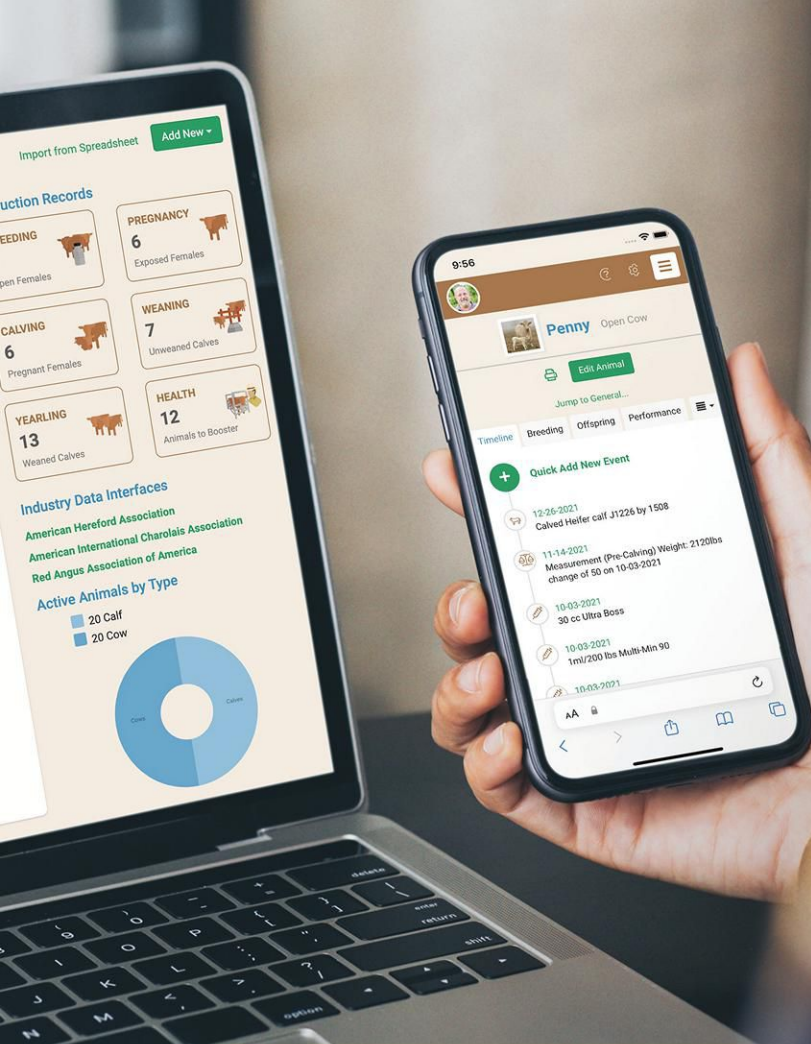
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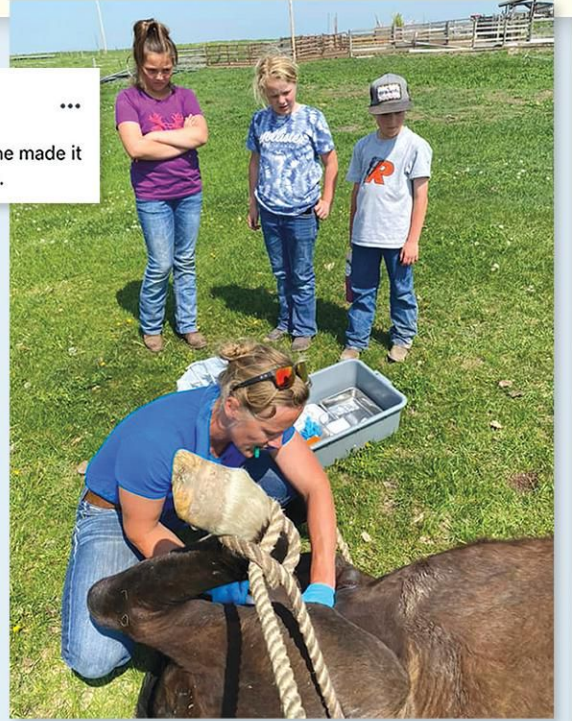
Followers



**Robin Wayman**

May 19 at 4:07 PM · 🌐

Had the vet out to Cut a stud Colt. She made it a very teachable moment for my kids.



**Shari Knudson Ekwortzel**

May 20 at 5:56 AM · 🌐

Central Mt dealing with smoke from 90 Canadian forest fires (23 still not contained) along with doctoring calves. Heading out to full pasture grazing this weekend...we're ready 😊

Working Ranch Magazine 2 🗨

Like

Comment



Author

Working Ranch Magazine

Shari Knudson Ekwortzel Hope this ain't gonna be another one of those summers.

Like

Reply

2d



Working Ranch Magazine

I'm thinking it is, we're either flooding or burning

Like

Reply

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Send Message

2d



Reply to Working Ranch Magaz...



Reply to Shari Knudson Ekwortzel...

Like

Reply

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**Andy Larson**

May 19 at 10:18 AM · 🌐

Enlisting the A team for a few bunk jumpers



You and 7 others

3 🗨

Like

Comment



Author

Working Ranch Magazine

Confidence. Right there.

Like

Reply

3d



Top fan

Andy Larson

A little gal with a mountain of energy for sure!

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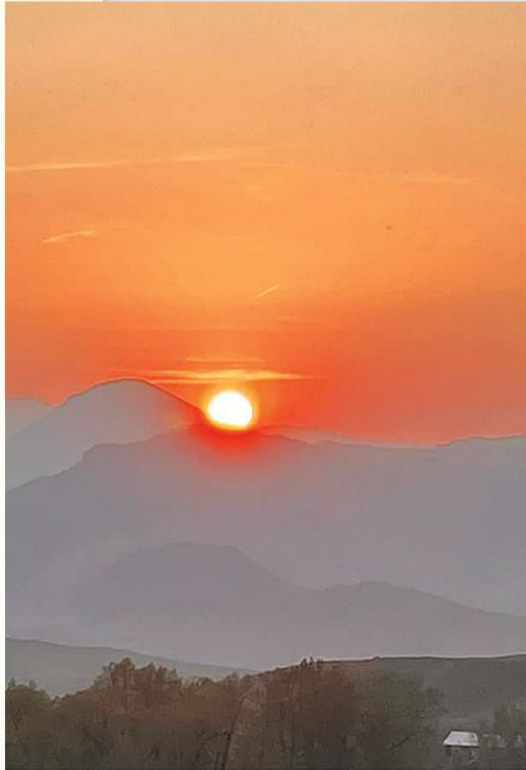


Reply to Andy Larson...

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## Kid 'n Critter Corner

This is Louanna Bassett and Rooster the dog. We had a great day in cow country! Gotta get the kids involved! Thanks!

**Lara Bassett**  
 Lovell, WY **WR**

# PARAMOUNT

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# calendar

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

**June 22 - 24, 2023** The **Crooked River Roundup Rodeo** in Crook County, Oregon, boasts over 450 professional rodeo contestants from across the United States competing to take over \$100,000 in prize money. There is so much goin' on here you'll just have to check the website for all the action: [www.crookedriverroundup.com/rodeo/](http://www.crookedriverroundup.com/rodeo/)

**June 24 - July 3, 2023** Texarkana, Arkansas will be hoppin' early this summer with the "**All American**" **National Junior Brahman Show**. Come out and support your future Brahman producers. See it all at [www.brahman.org](http://www.brahman.org).

**June - August 2023** **Youth Ranch Rodeo** has some great events scheduled this year. Check out the website for all of the rodeos and locations at [www.wrca.org/2023-youth-ranch-rodeo-schedule/](http://www.wrca.org/2023-youth-ranch-rodeo-schedule/)

**July 1 - 8, 2023** *Guardians of the Plains* is the brand of this year's **National Junior Angus Show** in Grand Isle, NE and these guys are ready to entertain! Showmanship is on the menu, followed by a Tradeshow, Tailgate Party, Street Carnival, Silent Auction, Clinics, Contests and a bunch of deep-fried stuff. See it all here at <https://www.njas.info>

**July 13 - 15, 2023** **Cattlemen's Days** in Gunnison, CO has been running a solid 123 years and there aren't very many original players left. But that's okay because this "Granddaddy of Colorado Rodeos" has been keepin' up with the times. Join the PRCA competitors and see what they do best. The portal for the mortals is: [www.cattlemensdays.com](http://www.cattlemensdays.com).

**August 17 - 18, 2023** If you haven't unpacked your bag from the last **R-CALF USA Convention**, don't bother. It's here again! Rip that old baggage tag off and head out for Rapid City, South Dakota to see the plan. Details at [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com).

### UPCOMING RANCH RODEOS

STOUT RANCH RODEO . . . . .	JUNE 23 - 24, 2023
SANTA FE TRAIL RANCH RODEO . . . . .	JULY 7 - 8, 2023
WAURIKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RANCH RODEO . . . . .	JULY 14 - 15, 2023
TEXAS RANCH ROUNDUP . . . . .	JULY 21 - 22, 2023
ESTANCIA VALLEY RANCH RODEO . . . . .	JULY 21 - 22, 2023
WELD COUNTY FAIR RANCH RODEO . . . . .	JULY 30, 2023
RIDE FOR THE BRAND CHAMPIONSHIP RANCH RODEO . . . . .	AUGUST 5, 2023
TOM HORN DAYS . . . . .	AUGUST 11, 2023
BIG BEND RANCH RODEO . . . . .	AUGUST 11 - 12, 2023
OCA RANCH RODEO . . . . .	AUGUST 18 - 19, 2023
MOTLEY-DICKENS OLD SETTLERS REUNION & RODEO . . . . .	AUGUST 25 - 26, 2023
JACKPOT RANCH RODEO . . . . .	AUGUST 26 - 27, 2023

#### Want information about your club or organization's activities published in Working Ranch?

Send information at least 60 days prior to event to: "Events Calendar" Working Ranch, P.O. Box 91269 Henderson, Nevada 89009-1269 or email [judy@workingranchmag.com](mailto:judy@workingranchmag.com).

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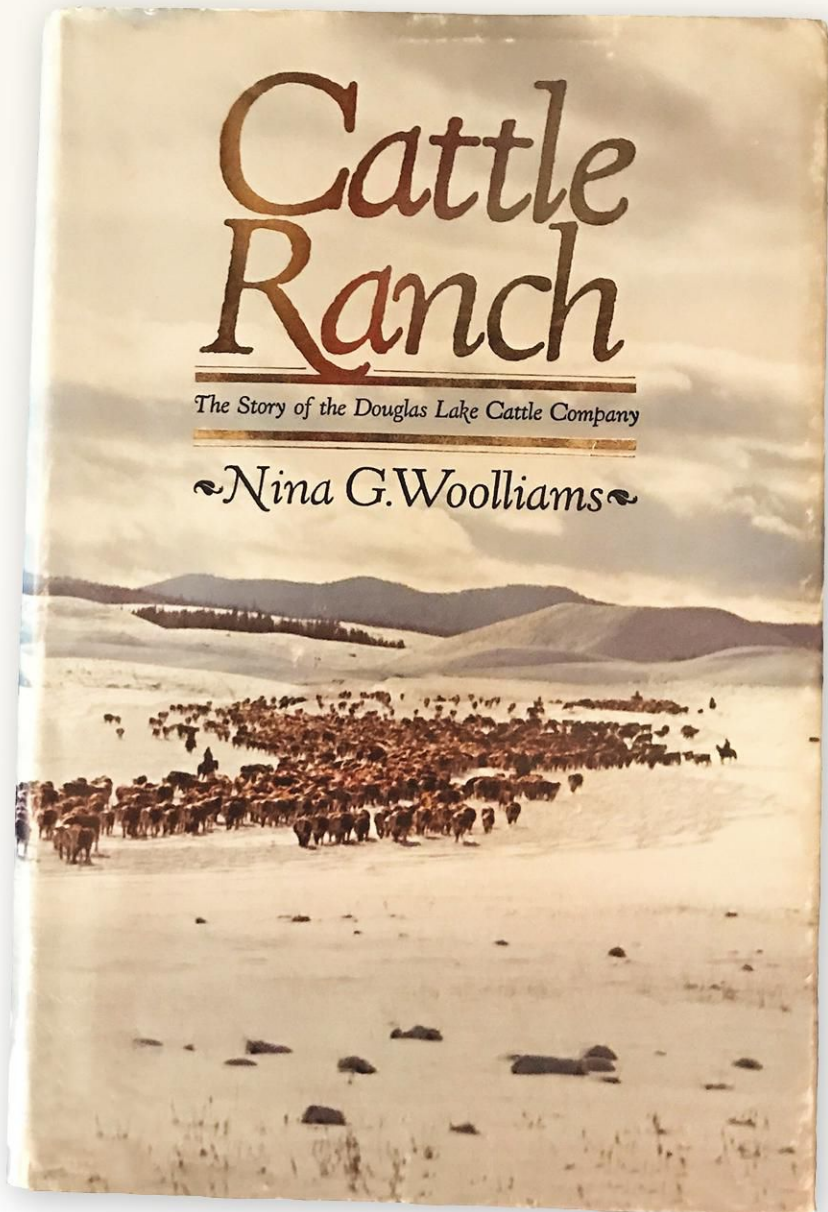
## Taking the Long Circle

It's been over 40 years since I first wandered into the bunch-grass cow paradise of central British Columbia to chase my dream of big outfit cowboy-ing. Somebody handed me this book, assuming I could read, I'm guessing, and I did just that, on my first season pulling night shift calving 300 heifers at Nicola Ranch.

This spring, I ordered a copy of *Cattle Ranch*, by Nina Woolliams, online and settled in to re-enjoy (if that's not a word, it oughta be) the story of how the country was settled not from the East, as some would suppose, but from the South by way of Oregon and California. The Gold Rush was the instigator. The large crews building the railroad through that rough country soon after the Rush was the Godsend, but ultimately creating a market on the West Coast, some 300 miles away across steep rocky trails that would give any one of us cowboys nightmares, was the prize.

According to the book, which was intricately researched, the country was populated in the 1860s with a Shorthorn-Durham cross type of a cow, hardy for that country, brought up by the thousands from origins within the Pacific NW United States. Eventually, Herefords were brought in and remain there until this day, alongside cattle from other breeding strategies.

In 1873, about the time Douglas Lake was in a major growth period, a Scottish cloth merchant by the name of George Grant brought some Angus bulls from his home country to the small town of Victoria, Kansas. Who could have known what an impact that venture would have on the emerging North American beef production industry.



Thank you, Nina G. Woolliams, and every author and historian like you, for taking the time and tapping into the passion and unstoppable energy it takes to document the quiet and powerful evolution of the beef cattle ranching communities across North America. We learn from those who came before us, but only if their lessons are at our fingertips. You did that.

### DIDN'T SEE MANY ANGUS GROWING UP

Having come from Western Canada, the type of cattle I saw growing up was mostly Hereford / Charolais cross cattle from the 70s, real good feeder

critters. The first time I recall seeing a real live Angus up close was when I finished High School in Calgary in 1977 and headed West of town to snag a job on foot feeding purebred donor cattle at the newly established

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Alberta Livestock Transplants (ALT), the seed entity for today's worldwide powerhouse Alta Genetics. Angus were already strong out West, and it was there that I met others on the crew (once I proved to be somewhat useful) that knew all about them.

Gail Hamilton and her husband Rob own and operate one of the premier Angus genetics outfits in the world, Hamilton Farms, near Cochrane. Gail was the vet tech at ALT when I arrived knowing virtually nothing. What Gail didn't know about a cow was not worth knowing, and she was an invaluable member of that highly innovative team working on the cutting edge of Embryo Transfer back in the day. I ended up working under the tutelage of Stan Jacobs (who went on to spend 30 years as Cowboss of Douglas Lake) helping out with the 1,500 recipient cows scattered out on pasture wherever they could find it. There were lots of road miles and tons of time in the saddle checking heat and sorting

recips, not all of them cowboy-friendly.

The veterinary team was outstanding. Dr. Bob Janzen was a superb example of a skilled professional. His calm focus and easy-going attitude impressed the young me very much. Dr. Brian Shea was the embryologist and he really knew his stuff. There were a lot of high-value Angus genetics rolling through that operation back then, and that's where I really got to see the best of it.

The rest is a blur, as you can imagine, but the opportunity to meet these people as a 17 year-old was just about the luckiest thing a young cowboy could have stumbled upon.

Fast forward 40+ years to 2022 and the British Columbia Angus Association recognizes the 300,000 acre / 1,500 head Nicola Ranch as the Commercial Producer of the Year. The long-time ranch manager that helped get Nicola Ranch to that level is my very own cousin, the energetic and innovative John Parkes, better known as JP.

## BACK TO THE BOOK

Cowboys love to read books about old ranching because it reminds us of how important humility is to remaining grounded. I used to think I was tough, but the ghosts of cowboying past tapped me on the shoulder many times during my evening absorption of these pages. Rough trails, rank horses, ornery cooks, winters harsh and lonely enough to freeze the sense out of anyone. Raging forest and grass fires, grasshopper infestations, bears, wolves, paralyzing ticks and a cast of characters coming and going that would rival Lonesome Dove's.

I snickered at myself recalling an incident on some cold circle in my day, in a much less challenging time period, where there wasn't enough hot coffee in my thermos for a third cup. What a disaster. Thankfully I survived.

What I did learn was that to us, a big cow outfit was a place filled with everything a cowboy loves; tons of acreage to roam, good cattle, decent

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horses, wildlife, freedom, and steady work if you could handle it. But, to the owners and shareholders, the ranch had to make a profit if they were going to feed the people. And Nina's book explained in great detail how difficult and risky creating and maintaining that revenue stream was in those early years. There was no infrastructure. Think about that. No roads. No lights. No indoor plumbing. No phone line communication. No gas or electric stoves. No vehicles.

Interspersed among the pages were records of how the Natives in the valley excelled at ranch work, and how Reserves were established with support from the settlers so the bands could run their own cattle and horses. Some of the best cowhands and cowbosses came from their culture, many of them spending their entire lives dedicated to the outfit, with the next generation coming up right alongside them.

When the provincial cattlemen's association was faced with voting

for or against a proposal to accept Government assistance during a particularly bad time, the group was split on the vote, many of them not wanting to open that door. Apparently it caused a rift among them that took a long time to heal.

### COMING FULL CIRCLE

This summer I complete a full circle, a very long one, too. The **Beef Improvement Federation** is holding their annual convention in Calgary this July, and I signed up for everything but the golf tournament (although my appeal regarding the ruling on the "incident" allegedly involving myself at the last cattlemen's golf tournament is still pending, I think it best to quietly distance myself from the course at this juncture).

There's going to be tons of stuff going on; seminars, meetings, breakout sessions. But best of all will be the bus tours far and wide. I'm going to hop on the Canadian Angus Pre-BIF

tour featuring four impressive Angus outfits and a bona-fide pancake feast at the Calgary Stampede! The tail end of the conference will host more amazing bus trips to ranches, feedyards, Olds College and the University of Calgary's WA Ranch.

One of those tours is going to be Hamilton Farms. It will be such a delight to stand amongst my peers, hoping, just hoping, that either Gail or Rob will squint their eyes at me through the smoky haze and look me up and down, exclaiming, "Hey, aren't you that skinny longhaired kid with the big glasses we had feeding cows at ALT back in the 70s?" Oh, my cowboy pride will be on full parade, knowing that I left such an extraordinary impression on their lives over the decades.

"Why yes, yes it is. And, funny story, since then, I've..."

"EVERYBODY BACK ON THE BUS!" the driver barks like he was late for his own wedding.

So much for my big return. **WR**

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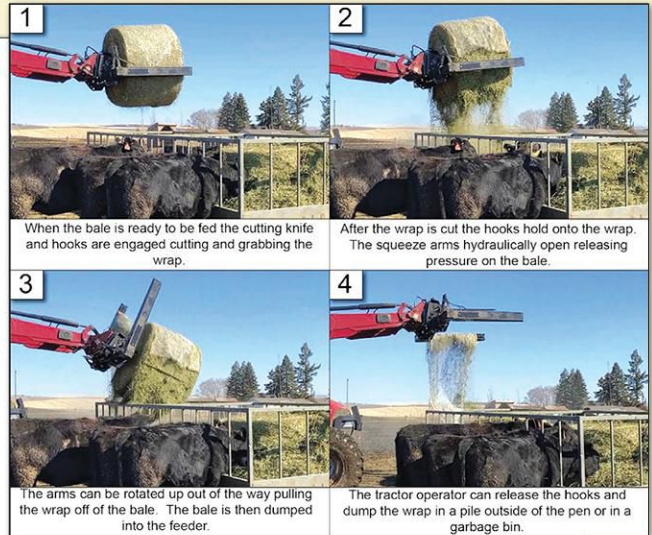
## THAT TWINE IS MINE

Tired of wrasslin' with those twines? Hillco Technologies is proud to announce the launch of the **Wrap Twine Remover**, a revolutionary new product that will allow an operator to remove netwrap or twine from large round bales and large square bales without the need for the operator to get out of the cab of the tractor.

The Wrap Twine Remover is a simple, yet effective solution to a common problem faced by farmers and ranchers. The device is designed to be mounted to the front of a tractor and is operated with controls from the cab. The Wrap Twine Remover is capable of removing netwrap or twine from large round bales and large square bales quickly and efficiently, allowing the operator to remain in the cab of the tractor.

The Wrap Twine Remover is designed to be easy to operate and maintain and is built to last. It is constructed with Hillco's brand-known exceptional quality and is designed to withstand the rigors of daily use. The Wrap Twine Remover is also designed to be compatible with a variety of tractors, making it a great choice for farmers and ranchers of all sizes.

For more go to [www.hillcotechologies.com](http://www.hillcotechologies.com) and check out this (private – must follow link) video on our YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/EUvUvh9Nc90>.



1 When the bale is ready to be fed the cutting knife and hooks are engaged cutting and grabbing the wrap.

2 After the wrap is cut the hooks hold onto the wrap. The squeeze arms hydraulically open releasing pressure on the bale.

3 The arms can be rotated up out of the way pulling the bale off of the bale. The bale is then dumped into the feeder.

4 The tractor operator can release the hooks and dump the wrap in a pile outside of the pen or in a garbage bin.

## PLEASE JOIN US

Anything that makes fencing easier, WR is all for it! **Gripple**, the market leading manufacturer of wire joiners and tensions for agricultural fencing, has released a new wire joiner specifically for use with high tensile barbed wire.

The new High Tensile joiner is 16 percent stronger than using a traditional wire knot, thanks to Gripple's patented corrosion resistant ceramic wedge technology, which means barbed wire joints last the lifetime of the fence.

Gripple's new Barbed range, which includes a Mild Steel joiner and a High Tensile joiner has been specifically designed to grip the unique shape of barbed wire, proving long lasting joints for installation or repair.

Manufactured from corrosion-resistant materials, the High Tensile joiner is designed to last the lifetime of the fence. In addition, with its built-in release function, it enables release and adjustment if needed.

Gripple's new High Tensile joiner is compatible with standard wire gauge 2x 15.5 swg to 2x 14 swg. As part of the new Gripple Barbed range, both the High Tensile and Mild Steel Barbed wire joiners offer a multitude of benefits. Compatible with barbed wire 2 x 14 swg to 2 x 12½ swg, the Mild Steel Barbed wire joiner, like the High Tensile version, is easy to use, quick to install and very reliable. For more visit <https://www.gripple.com/> or for more on the Barbed range visit <https://www.gripple.com/products/agriculture/barbed/>.





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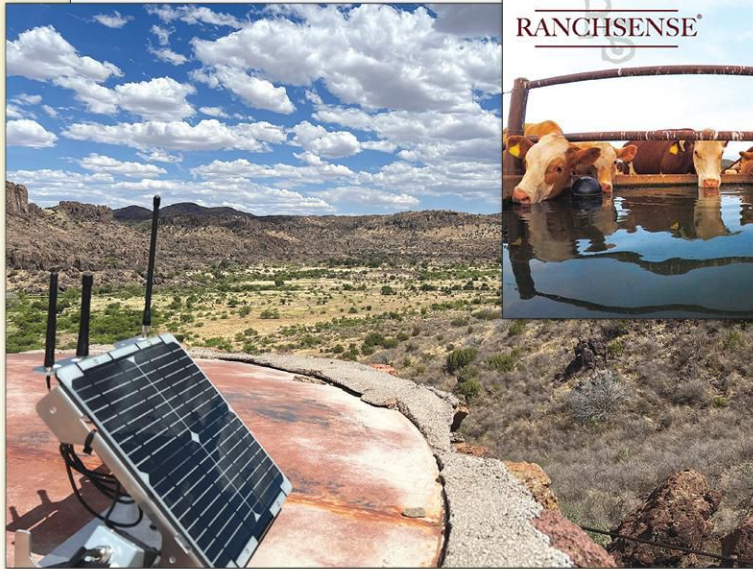


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## MAKES PERFECT SENSE

Next to rainfall, time is a ranch's most precious resource. **RanchSense** helps ranchers save time and money by remotely monitoring water tanks and troughs. The chore of driving hours to check water levels can be done in minutes from a convenient phone app. The savings in time, fuel, tires, and vehicle repair are significant.



RanchSense also notifies ranchers when water levels fall below pre-determined levels. This helps ranchers monitor pumps and other infrastructure used to provide critical water resources to livestock and wildlife.

"Monitoring water storage in rough country used to take more than two hours a day," says Dakota Holmes, manager of the Happy Cove Ranch in Alpine, Texas. "With RanchSense, it takes about 30 seconds! That gives me more time to spend on other tasks around the ranch."

RanchSense is solar-powered and satellite-connected so it works perfectly in areas with no cell service, all for \$1 per day. With installations from south Texas and the desert Southwest into the Rockies, RanchSense is a proven tool that provides immediate cost and time savings to Ranchers.

RanchSense is an American Company helping American Ranchers. The company is owned and managed by a Texas rancher who designed the system from the ground up to make life easy for his fellow ranchers. For more information, please visit [www.RanchSense.com](http://www.RanchSense.com) or give us a call at 210-247-4941.

## LOAD 'EM UP

These are worth a look. **KIOTI Tractor**, a division of Daedong-USA, Inc., announces the addition of the **CK20** and **DK20** Series models to its tractor lineup. Front-end loader work is made easier with the new integrated joystick that also houses standard third-function controls. The joystick enables the operator to perform all loader functions with a single lever, and when combined with the optional third-function valve kit and attachments, unlocks additional capability.



Ranging from 40 to 55 horsepower, the **DK20 Series** is powered by a dependable, liquid-cooled, fuel-efficient, 3-cylinder KIOTI diesel engine. The new **DK20SE** models, ranging from 40 to 58 horsepower, feature the largest fuel tank capacity of the line at 12.7 gallons and reach a top speed of 18.45 mph. Visit [www.KIOTI.com](http://www.KIOTI.com) for more.



Ranging from 25 to 40 horsepower, the high-performance **CK20 Series** comes standard with power steering, wet multi-disc brakes, and a joystick valve with third-function controls. Buyers have the option to purchase the third-function valve kit needed to power front-mounted hydraulically-actuated attachments.

Select **CK20SE Cab** and **DK20SE** models arrive factory-prepped for the optional RPM Raise feature. With this feature, operators can temporarily increase to maximum engine RPMs at the push of a button when lifting heavy loads, and return to the preset RPMs once completed, making tasks more efficient.

Other features include new LED headlights, increasing nighttime visibility for long days on the job. Additionally, a new steel hood increases machine durability, along with improved branding and a more modern look. **WR**



## Coffee Time

### COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF BEEF PRODUCERS IN WOTUS CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the Sackett family in **Sackett v. EPA** – the court’s most recent consideration of which features are subject to federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction. In its holding, the court soundly rejected the contentious “significant nexus” test. **National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA)** strongly supports this ruling and is currently engaged in a litigation against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Biden Administration’s WOTUS definition.

“Cattle producers across the country can breathe a sigh of relief today. Since EPA’s adoption of the “significant nexus” test, cattle producers have had to retain costly legal services to determine if water features on their property are federally jurisdictional,” said Todd Wilkinson, South Dakota cattle producer and President of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. “Today’s Supreme Court opinion refocuses the Clean Water Act on protecting our water resource through regulatory clarity. We look forward to working with the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they implement the Court’s new Continuous Surface Connection standard.”

NCBA submitted an amicus brief in the Sackett case, encouraging elimination of the Significant Nexus test in exchange for a more practical standard. “In its brief to the Court, NCBA highlighted the unconstitutionality of imposing criminal penalties for violations of vague standards under the Clean Water Act. The Court recognized and reversed the Significant Nexus test, in part due to the constitutional due process risk that it created,” said Mary-Thomas Hart, Chief Counsel for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

NCBA has been heavily involved in litigation surrounding the WOTUS rule since 2015. NCBA filed suit against the Obama-era WOTUS definition, defended the Trump-era definition that brought more clarity to what water features are included under WOTUS, and filed suit against the Biden administration’s WOTUS rule that did not include critical agricultural exemptions. **WR**

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**Fits ATV's and UTV's!** **Safe Processing!**

**ONE PERSON can now SAFELY and EASILY process calves without concern of the protective mother cow!**

**Safe Release!**

**Gary Reimer, OK**  
“Never has tagging a calf been easier or safer. Momma cows are not near as nervous when they can smell their calves.”

**Bob Seely, WY**  
“This product has been invaluable. It makes the job of doctoring and tagging calves significantly safer. I am grateful for the calf catcher making the process easier!”

**Dan Bartels, NE**  
“Catches the calves fine - the thing I like best is the cow follows so you can get the pair pulled without messing with the whole herd.”  
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# that's an improvement

## Keep On the Sunny Side

*With these superb solar units*

**L**ately, it's hard to predict what kind of weather patterns you're going to experience on your outfit moving forward, but the Sun is still the "star" of the show, and harnessing this powerful energy is a great way to increase efficiency.

If you're looking to move into solar for livestock, irrigation or other water pumping and level monitoring tasks, or micro-manage your creep feeding strategy, here's a few ways to do that:

### AUTO EASY FEEDER

If you're looking to increase the efficiency of supplemental pasture feeding, check this out. Scientific studies have proven that feeding livestock twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon/evening, is beneficial for greater growth performance and health. Performance is best when feedings occur at the same time each day that correspond with the lowest environmental heavy load in the summer and the coldest conditions of winter.

The **Auto Easy Feeder** is a programmable livestock feeder that utilizes a 12v power source, which is maintained by a solar cell. The unit can be programmed to feed up to 80 times per day, with adjustable run-time lengths.

The Auto Easy Feeder dispenses different types and sizes of bulk feed, textured-type feed, or cube feed without any adjustment needed – simply load the desired type of feed into the



Auto Easy Feeder



Auto Easy Feeder



## Livestock Watering Applications

Solutions for livestock watering.



Sun Pumps

## SUN PUMPS

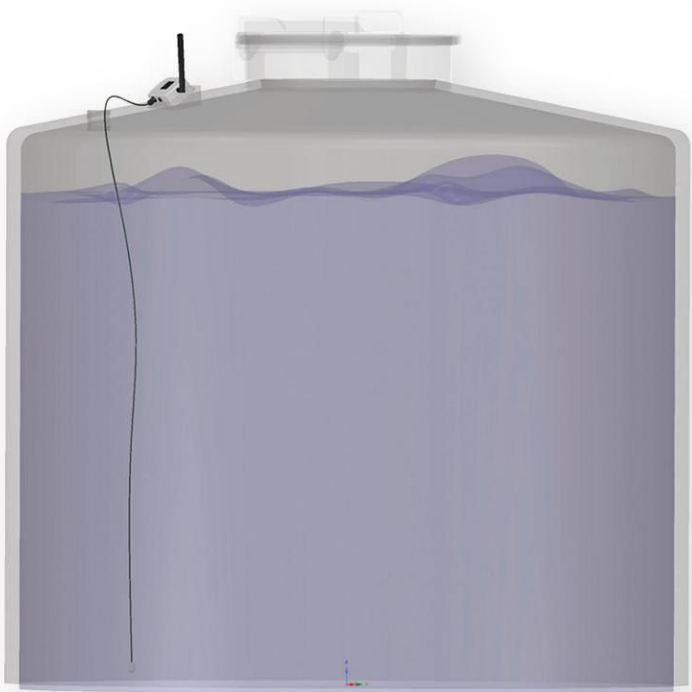
A lot of WR readers could be considered remote, so solar makes perfect sense if you can tap into it. **Sun Pumps** offers unique solar pumping solutions for a variety of applications. Their pumps are specifically designed for remote locations beyond grid power. Sun Pumps can design an individualized system for any volume of water. Their line of solar powered products include submersibles, boosters, pool pumps, jet pumps, pond aerators, plunger pumps, piston pumps and turbid pumps for larger applications—all requiring no fuel other than the power of the sun. The company's easy to install pump systems are in use all over the world by ranchers, farmers, towns, municipalities, parks, homeowners and gardeners, giving them affordable access to water wherever it's needed. For more info go to <https://www.sunpumps.com/ProductGroups/Livestock%20Watering>

feeder. Waste from random overconsumption is minimized, and the feed itself is never left standing free choice in the bunk (think deer and feral hogs).

Salt is frequently used to limit feed intake of livestock by mixing it with the bulk feed. However, salt is not a precise regulator of intake since certain animals may tolerate more salt than others and keep eating. The

Auto Easy Feeder portions out the required feed amounts to achieve the best yields in growth, without having to utilize salt and other limiters.

Models come in widths of 4', 8' and 16'. Each unit has a capacity for 325 - 425 lbs of feed per foot, depending on the feedstuff (4' model holds 1,300 - 1,700 lbs). Head over to <https://www.autoeasyfeeder.com/> for more info.



RanchCheck's AguaCheck



# that's an improvement

## RANCHCHECK'S AGUACHECK

A trusty remote level sensor would be such a time-saver for busy livestock folks. **AguaCheck** from **RanchCheck** is a level sensor for many types of water tank applications, allowing you to monitor systems located within adequate cell service using text messages.

- Capabilities include:
- Resolution of about 1"
- Automatic daily level reports
- Low water level alerts
- Rapid water loss alerts
- Works anywhere with adequate cell coverage
- Solar battery recharging for a long field life
- Durable rainproof enclosure
- Easy setup and installation

Installation is easily accomplished by mounting the unit at the top of the tank and lowering the weighted cable into the tank. The standard sensor can measure up to 15 feet of water, but other depth options are available on request.

### Benefits:

- Be alerted to low water levels before your livestock run out of water.
- Know when to turn a pump on and off without wasting time or overflowing a remote tank.
- Lower pump electric bills.
- Detect a broken float valve or

other leak before the tank is drained.

- Enable water usage planning and rationing.
- Version 6 and later of our remote tank level sensor can also provide graph visualizations

For more information check out <https://ranchcheck.com/>

## RPS SOLAR PUMPS

The folks at **RPS Solar Pumps** have it figured out when it comes to ranchers getting it done. First, choose your water use: Livestock; Off-Grid

Living; Irrigation; Filling Ponds / Fountains & Aeration; Land Trust / Conservation; NRCS.

Their website FAQs say it all.

"All our kits come with our great RPS pumps, full variable speed controller, tank & well low sensors, solar panels, wires, plumbing connectors, splice kits and more. In addition to the basic kit, we offer what we call the **'Turnkey kit'** which is great if you're a long way from a hardware store and want to make sure you have everything onsite! (it includes mounting hardware for the panels, pump wire, flexible poly pipe, well seal assembly, safety rope etc.) If



Livestock Ponds Irrigation Household Backup SOLAR PUMP Sizing & Pricing







Hanen Automatic Solar Powered Cattle Feeders

you have some of the parts already, it may be cheaper to piece together the parts locally as you won't pay shipping. For first time installers, the turnkey kit is popular and generally recommended by our team."

Complete the steps of the WATER ASSURANCE PLAN™ with any RPS Pump Sizing Specialist and you'll be guaranteed water after proper installation or your money back! Go to <https://www.rpsolarpumps.com/> for more.

### HANEN AUTOMATIC SOLAR POWERED CATTLE FEEDERS

This unit is great for pasture management. The **Expandable Hanen LSF-12 Automatic Solar-Powered Livestock Feeder** provides programmable timed nutrition amounts of various free-flowing feed types to your livestock, up to 12 feedings per day. Hanen's patented Hydraulically-Powered Feed Dispensing System uses fewer moving parts for less maintenance. Automatic feeding is convenient & saves time. Livestock summoned by an audio feeding signal arrive at the feeder in an orderly fashion.

Features:

- 2 - 8' troughs feed up to 12 head of cattle at a time, more if feeding calves or smaller animals
- Programmable feeding up to 12 times per day
- 75 bushel / 3,500 lb hopper capacity
- Durable heavy duty 7-14 gauge steel construction and 100%

- powder coated inside and out
- 100 watt solar-powered system with mppt solar controller
- Vented battery enclosure (12-volt battery not supplied)
- Portable, can be moved by tractor with lifting forks
- Expandable - connect up to 4

- additional hoppers to accommodate herd growth
- Hand-wired electrical panels with 3 yr conditional warranty
- Manufactured in the USA

Head on over to <https://www.automaticcattlefeeder.com/> for more. **WR**



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## A Weighty Decision

**W**hether we like it or not, as ranchers our profitability is tied to the pounds, and not just the pounds we sell. There are the pounds we feed and the pounds that inform our medication administration that also factor into our bottom line. And having a scale on the place can be a great tool in protecting those pound-based profits.

### WHAT TO CONSIDER

Knowing which scale will serve you and your operation best can be a weighty decision. So, here are a few things to ponder before settling on a scale.

- Is a single-animal setup right for you, or do you need a group scale?
- Will a permanent scale work, or would a portable be better?
- Are cattle the only thing you'd want to weigh?
- Is it worth the investment to go ahead and get something that's legal-for-trade or are you happy with your current point of sale?

### WHAT'S OUT THERE

If you're a seedstock producer, a stocker/backgrounder, have a ranch-direct beef business, or individual weights just matter more than average weights on your operation, a single-animal scale might be the way to go.

#### LBS Calf Scale

The LBS Calf Scale is designed for ranches where birth weights are recorded for registration or record keeping systems. The LBS Calf Scale features load cells and a digital read-out fitted to a calf rack that can be mounted on a pickup, ATV, or any

vehicle with a receiver hitch. The rack securely holds the calf for weighing, but also holds the calf at a good working height for tagging and can be used for transporting calves as well.

Learn more at [www.lbsscales.com](http://www.lbsscales.com)

#### Central City Scales Inc.

Central City Scales Inc. offers a 3' x 8' Individual Animal Scale as an alternative to weighing individual animals through the squeeze chute. This scale can be used in stationary or portable applications.

Available options:

- 5K Scale Kit with Model 640 Indicator
- 3' x 8' Platform Deck
- 3' X 8' Livestock Racks
- Metal Protector Box to Store Indicator
- Winch type wheel system for 3' x 8' Livestock Scale

Learn more about Central City Scales Inc. and the customization they offer at [www.ccscales.com](http://www.ccscales.com)



LBS Calf Scale

Central City Scales Inc.



### Rice Lake Weighing Systems - Stationary Livestock Scale - MAS-M

The model MAS-M by Rice Lake Weighing Systems is a ruggedly built mobile, load cell livestock scale designed with unpredictable conditions and multi-site use in mind. The MAS-M can be used on any firm surface up to a 6% grade and provides legal-for-trade measurement.

The standard features of the MAS-M include:

- Rubberized deck
- Enclosed scale with two standard swinging gates
- All-weather powder paint
- Low deck height of only six inches when in weigh mode
- 12-volt battery pack (recharged by tow vehicle)
- Integrated air pump to lift and lower air bag suspension
- Electric brakes

## Cattle Dosing Meets the Digital Age

Just like the cordless drill revolutionized the construction industry the **Te Pari Revolution Dosing** gun is set to do the same to cattle treatments. A battery pack set in a robust casing powers the plunger mechanism and with one simple touch of the button (as opposed to a hand pump on the handle) an accurate, fully calibrated dose is delivered to the animal. After the dose is delivered the plunger shoots back with incredible speed to refill the chamber, ready to deliver the next dose. The speed and ease of use means the Te Pari Revolution Dosing gun will drastically reduce hand stress, while delivering an accurate dosage for every animal.

The Te Pari Revolution Smart powered model is also part of a modern ranchers animal management program. A Gallagher ID/ XR or Gallagher TW Scale auto calculates the animal dose and delivers it to the gun via wifi which then automatically adjusts the dosage for each animal.

### Benefits

- ❑ Battery Powered for ease of use and reduced hand strain
- ❑ Improved medicine performance with exact dose based on animal weight
- ❑ Eliminates costly over-dosing
- ❑ Reduces product resistance caused by under-dosing
- ❑ Counter to see how many animals you have done and how much product you have used
- ❑ Very good suction due to powered



piston forward and back allowing draw off from bulk containers

Check out these videos on what Te Pari customers say:

<https://www.tepari.com/us/learning-center/experience-te-pari/customer-testimonials/?category=dosing-guns-and-weigh-scales> or head over to <https://www.tepari.com/us/products/dosing-guns/smart-dosing-gun/> for more info.



# scales | cattle handling

- Junction box for load cells
- Solar panel charger for onboard battery

To learn more about the MAS-M and other Rice Lake scales, visit [www.ricelake.com](http://www.ricelake.com)

## Cardinal Scale Manufacturing – Harvester Livestock Scales

Cardinal's fully-electronic, stationary Harvester Livestock Scales are available in 12.5, 25, or 30 ton overall capacities and sizes up to 52.5 ft long x 10 ft wide. Harvester Livestock Scales can be used with a variety of Cardinal Scale's weight indicators, which feature StableSENSE® digital filtering that can capture an accurate weight despite animal movement.

Features:

- Etched diamond pattern concrete deck
- Four hinge points on each gate
- High-tensile-strength concrete decks

- NTEP legal-for-trade
- Optional dual latches
- Optional horse risers
- Precast solid concrete deck
- Stainless steel load cells

Take a look at all Cardinal Harvester Livestock Sale options by visiting, [www.cardinalscale.com](http://www.cardinalscale.com)

## TRUCK SCALE

Feed costs are the number one expense on most livestock operations. A truck scale can be a helpful tool in getting a better handle on those costs in the long run and can save time and fuel running into town or over to the neighbor's to get that weight on a load of cattle or feed.



Rice Lake Weighing Systems - Stationary Livestock Scale - MAS-M

# It pays to be stronger than the rest

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**Fencing for the long run**

**B Bekaert**

**Sooner Scale, Inc. -  
Combination Truck/Cattle**

The Combination Truck/Cattle Scale is fully electronic, legal-for-trade, and can be permanently installed or placed on stable ground for temporary use.

**Features:**

- No pit to clean or pump out
- Four 10,000-pound tension load cells
- One 4-cell adjustable output junction box
- Digital weight display

**Options:**

- Choice of square tube or round pipe livestock racks
- Custom racks and gate configurations available
- Custom sizes available
- Ticket printer
- AC/DC inverter - enabling scale operation with 12V battery
- Trailer with tandem axles, rolling tail-bar, and 12V winch

For all the details, visit Sooner Scale, Inc. online at [www.soonerscale.com](http://www.soonerscale.com) **WR**



**Cardinal Scale Manufacturing -  
Harvester Livestock Scales**



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Stockmanship challenge competitor Sampson Moss.

## Stress Test

### *Welcome to the first-ever Ultimate Stockmanship Challenge competition*

**I**n a unique move for cow country folks, the first-ever *Ultimate Stockmanship Challenge* competition was held July 9-10, 2022, at the Pincher Creek Rodeo Grounds in Alberta, Canada, hosted by Malcolm and Jenny MacLean and sponsored by Zoetis, The Western Producer, Country Vets Ltd, and Prairie Wind Hatworks. A low-stress stockmanship school taught by Dawn Hnatow and Whit Hibbard was held the day before (Friday, July 8th), and they were joined by Paul Kernalguen to judge the Challenge on the weekend.

The stockmanship school was an introduction to low-stress handling methods developed by Bud Williams — looking at why it is important and how to do it. Topics covered in the morning class included the benefits of low-stress methods as compared with traditional/conventional cattle handling, and the basics: a person’s mindset and attitude, how to “read” an animal, how to prepare and handle cattle, and how to understand the principles and techniques.

The afternoon class focused on

practical applications, which included driving cattle, corral work, crowd pens, chute work, scale loading, and loading cattle onto trucks and trailers.

The goal of the school and 2-day competition was to give participants enough understanding and experience to be able to go home and successfully apply these techniques on their own ranches or in their cattle-handling jobs.

MacLean created this event as a way to introduce more people to low-stress cattle handling because it’s still not

commonplace on the ranches, feedlots, and grazing reserves he’s worked for over the years. “I’d never seen anyone using this, or knowing about it. A few people are doing this kind of work and putting on clinics to teach others, but it’s still not common knowledge. When you try to implement these practices at a place where people don’t have an understanding of low-stress cattle handling, they assume you are doing something wrong,” he said.

“I hoped this school and competition could help raise awareness. I wanted to put on a competition in which the cattle, horses, and people are better when they leave than when they came,” he said.

“I wasn’t sure how it was going to work, but it far exceeded our expectations. Everyone really enjoyed it, and it was fun to watch. Having a single person deal with multiple cattle and put them through obstacles made it like a game of chess.”

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# **Gooseneck**

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# weekend events

The cattle came in lazy and unresponsive to drive and direction, but by the end of it, they were easy to drive and had a good understanding of what the handlers were asking of them. The cattle responded to the handlers' requests in a calm, efficient manner. "The competitors learned a lot, the cattle learned a lot, and everyone had fun at the same time."

## QUALIFIED JUDGING

The judges for this event are all involved with low-stress stockmanship. Dawn Hnatow is from Texas but originally from Alberta. She worked with Bud Williams for 10 years at a feedlot near Lloydminster. Whit Hibbard worked with Bud and also on his own 5th-generation family ranch in Montana. Whit was also a park ranger for many years, rounding up cattle that were illegally grazing. Paul Kernalguen has a dairy farm in Saskatchewan and uses Bud Williams' methods in his dairy — with amazing success improving

production numbers, and improving his work-life quality.

"When these three people (who were asked to judge the stockmanship challenge) presented this idea to the Williams family, the family gave their full support. They said if we do it again, they would try to attend," MacLean said.

The competition structure was based on the day-to-day ranch and feedlot cattle work, being able to properly and efficiently work a Bud Box, load a line chute, sort cattle, doctor cattle, drive a group of cattle, corral cattle, and pull a pen or a single animal — all with no driving aids (no flags, sticks, canes), and no yelling or physical contact.

"We had an on-foot category because many people move cattle without horses, and we wanted to showcase their skills. And some folks do everything horseback. We wanted to show that this style of cattle handling can be done on foot and on horseback," he explains.

"I created a challenging course so people would have to use Buds' methods to be able to get the cattle successfully and efficiently through the course within an allotted time. This was not a timed event (no extra points for faster times), but there was a time limit to complete the pattern. Some weren't able to complete the pattern, mainly due to not knowing what the correct move would be to get the cattle where they wanted them, and they'd go back to their conventional handling styles," he said.

"For the second day, we decided to give people two lifelines, like on 'Who wants to be a millionaire', so when they got stuck with the cattle, they could ask the judges for advice. The judges would suggest an applicable Bud Williams' method for that particular situation, such as a T to the gate, the zig-zag, reverse parallel, etc. When the competitor applied the technique, the cattle readily responded and they'd be off to the next obstacle,"



Stockmanship challenge competitor Drew Lindburg. The stockmanship school was an introduction to low-stress handling methods developed by Bud Williams.



# Documentary Coming Soon

Currently, Malcolm MacLean is putting together a documentary about Bud Williams. He hopes to get a few more interviews with people who knew Bud, and his widow Eunice. "She is going to send me all her archived footage of videos she shot, and some of her photos; these will be included in the documentary," he said.

said MacLean. "I think this proved that Buds' methods truly work, and showcased these methods as superior for efficiency while keeping cattle in a low-stress state." There was also a section of the roping competition since some ranchers want to be able to quietly ride into a group of cattle and rope the one they need to doctor.

This event was a great learning experience for how to put together a low-stress cattle handling competition. "One thing we learned was that when you say 'low-stress handling', people get concerned about how much pressure they should put on the cattle. However, the cattle we used were dull and unresponsive to pressure and release at the beginning of the competition. These can be some of the hardest cattle to get driving and direction on. That first day, people were trying to get direction and drive at the same time, which proved to be very challenging," MacLean said.

"The second day, I decided to give contestants 3 minutes to drive the cattle in any direction — the only goal being to keep the cattle's feet moving. This gave contestants a feel for how much pressure they needed, to get the cattle driving, and to stay driving. Without drive, it's hard to put directions on cattle. This will be an important aspect of future competitions. This allows contestants to read their cattle, and find out how much pressure they need or don't need to drive them, and adjust accordingly."

His plan for this year is to get some cattle that are dull and unresponsive, as well as some that are overly responsive and sparky. Then the judges will be able to see how the competitors respond and adapt to different kinds of cattle.

"We may have an advanced, intermediate, and beginner class. We hope to continue an annual event to stimulate more interest in low-stress stockmanship," he said.

"We want to have a music festival for evening entertainment and have the event stretch out a few more days. Nearly everyone who came to the first one had some idea of what was involved, and the ones who didn't were

able to learn some of the techniques. Hopefully, this started them on the path to better stockmanship," he says.

"This year we'll have four days of clinics before the competition. The

date is tentatively set for July 10-13 for the school portion, and the 14th and 15th for the competitions." For more details, call Malcolm MacLean at 587-227-5827. **WR**

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# pasture management



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## Comin' In Hot!

**S**uccessful electric fencing systems feature appropriate fencing materials, an adequate energizer, and proper installation. Whether you're grazing in a rotational paddock system, have cattle grazing crop residue, or set up any type of temporary pasture to manage animals, using an adequate charger and properly installing it is key to success with an electric fence.

Kable Thurlow, Educator, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension, says training animals from a young age to respect electric fence is equally important in using it as a barrier.

"If a 2,000-pound bull wants to plow through an electric fence, he'll do it," Thurlow says. "Training livestock at an early age to respect the shock an

electric fence delivers makes it easier to avoid that kind of experience."

In May 2022, Thurlow, MSU Statewide Educator Thomas Guthrie, and MSU Associate Professor, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, and MSU's Timothy Harrigan, Associate Professor, Department of Biosystems

and Agricultural Engineering, authored "*Considerations for Selecting and Installing an Electric Fence Charger.*" ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/animal-agriculture/uploads/E3470\\_Electric-Fence-Charger\\_2022-05-11\\_AA.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/animal-agriculture/uploads/E3470_Electric-Fence-Charger_2022-05-11_AA.pdf)) The publication reviews factors involved when selecting and installing an electric fence chargers system to safely contain livestock.

"I always say, 'a good fence makes for good neighbors,'" Thurlow says. "That's true. A permanent fence should keep livestock contained for 25 to 30 years without major repairs or total replacement. Whether it's permanent or temporary, choose high-quality material when building your fence."

Thurlow notes that electric fencing

has made significant strides in recent years, giving great flexibility to rotation and temporary grazing resources. Today's low impedance chargers are the most common electric fence chargers manufactured today. They're much safer than the high impedance AC high voltage chargers that were used in the past.

"I'm not sure high impedance chargers are even manufactured now," Thurlow says. "Anyone who has a high impedance charger they've been using, might want to consider replacing it with the low impedance. They're just so much better."

For decades, electric fences energized by chargers have been used to deliver pulses of high voltage DC electricity through wires to deter animals with electric shocks. High impedance chargers delivered long pulses of high voltage, low-amperage power that lasted about half a second. While the shock was powerful, these units easily shorted out when tall grass or tree branches touched the wire.

"High impedance fences have also led to fires when pulse length was increased to overcome shorting out, which sometimes caused the wires to heat up and cause fires," Thurlow says.

For electric fence that was more than two miles long, high impedance chargers lost shocking power after two miles of wire.

Low impedance chargers use very high voltage and very high amperage but deliver the electricity in extremely short pulses of about 3 milliseconds. This powerful shock can easily work through weeds, but the short pulse duration provides a strong but safe shock. These chargers lose only about 20% of the shocking power over five miles of fence.

"The old chargers, sometimes called weed eaters or weed choppers, could potentially start a fire if they are in contact with weeds or grass," Thurlow says. "They're also grounded out by vegetation, so little or no shock is left to keep livestock within the fence boundaries."

Low-impedance chargers are available as plug-in chargers, solar



### Ground squirrel, pocket gopher, and prairie dog infestations

can quickly destroy rangeland. Active prairie dog colonies can cut grazing capacity by 50% and an active pocket gopher infestation can reduce forage capacity up to 49%.

Control measures offering moderate success include trapping, shooting, repellants, and burrow modification. Using rodenticide bait stations or broadcasting rodenticide products can be an effective tool.

Two major groups of rodenticides include acute toxicants that quickly induce death, and anticoagulants that require multiple feedings to be effective.

Chuck Hathaway of Liphatech ([www.liphatech.com](http://www.liphatech.com)), a worldwide manufacturer of pest control products, recommends rodenticide bait stations and broadcasting bait for population reduction of ground squirrels.

"When used according to label instructions, bait stations are highly effective with ground squirrels," Hathaway says. "The key is using the appropriate number of stations for the acreage being treated and maintaining uninterrupted bait in stations as the label directs. Once an area is cleared of rodents, maintenance begins at your fence line."

Bait stations should be prepared, checked and filled by mid-March, and monitored at least through late July when ground squirrels may aestivate (like a summer siesta) until harvest.

For best results, **start with proper rodent identification**. Initiate ground squirrel control as early as possible in March, before rodents emerge from hibernation and reproduce.

"Ranchers and farmers are vigilant to care for livestock and crops," Hathaway says. "Careful attention to rodent management can help reduce negative impacts on rangeland and crops."

chargers, and battery chargers. Whenever access to a 110- or 220-volt service is available, plug-in chargers deliver the greatest reliability.

"Plug-in chargers also are the most economical because there's no need to recharge or replace batteries or maintain solar panels," Thurlow says. "Technology for solar and battery-powered chargers has come a long way in recent years. In a remote area where electrical service isn't available, these may be the only option."

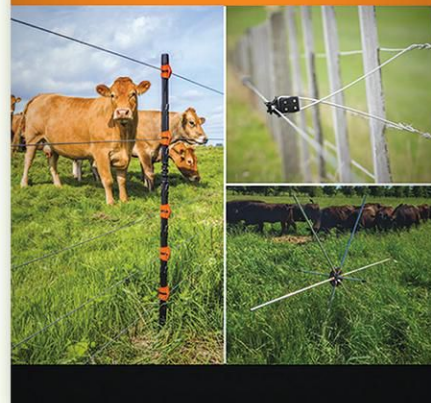
### ALL CHARGED UP

Chargers come in various sizes in terms of voltage and joules. Voltage refers to the electric current's pressure as it moves throughout the fence wires. Higher voltage increases the wire's ability to shock an animal that touches it while it's energized. Refer to Thurlow's online bulletin for a table of recommended voltage ranges for animals.

A **joule** is the term used to indicate a specific unit of energy in the International System of Units (SI). To

## Electric Fencing 101

Electric Fencing Systems Design, Installation & Maintenance



determine the appropriate size energizer for a fencing project, identifying the type of fence to be energized is the first step. An effective energizer will hold enough joules to sufficiently power the fence length, even in the event of a temporary power deficit.

High tensile single-strand wire fencing can be installed in combinations varying from a single-wire, interior, semi-permanent situation to five or more wires on a perimeter fence. Woven wire fences, made of horizontal wires connected by vertical wires (stays), will vary from as little as two wires to as many as nine. Smaller spaces are used for smaller animals and larger spaces for larger livestock. The overall height of the fence wires will also vary, depending on the class or species of livestock to be contained.

“I would never and should never recommend electrifying barbed wire,” Thurlow says. “Livestock or a person could become entangled in the wire and

be unable to escape the electric shock.”

Temporary portable fencing typically consists of poly wire, polytape, braided twine and electric netting. None of these types of fencing are suitable for a permanent fence.

“Poly wires usually have three to nine strands inside them to conduct electricity,” Thurlow says. “Electric net fencing is used in many poultry and small ruminant grazing systems. Netting is one of the better fence types to control predators.”

Single-wire fences don’t require as much energy as multiple-wire fences since a single-wire fence is less likely to come in contact with vegetation. To reduce the load on a fence charger for a multi-wire fence, it’s possible to charge every other wire.

Grazing experts recommend a 12.5-gauge high tensile wire for the most satisfactory results on permanent exterior or semi-permanent interior fence. Many types of fences and fencing products are available for portable fences.

Since the type of fence can affect energizer performance and determines what output joules are required, identify the appropriate fence type before selecting an energizer.

“Once you know what type of fence you’re using, you need to calculate the miles of fence you’ll energize,” Thurlow says. “For a multi-wire fence,

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that total includes the total length of all the wires.”

According to the University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center, one joule of output per mile of energized fence wire is generally sufficient (Gerrish & Roberts, 1999). Before buying an energizer, estimate the total distance of wire stands that must be electrified to determine which charger has a mileage rating that meets your needs.

## PROPER INSTALLATION IS EVERYTHING

Once the fencing and charger have been selected, ensuring that it works properly will depend on installation and a reliable power source. An electric fence that isn't adequately grounded won't perform to its potential, keeping livestock contained and predators away.

“There are two main factors to consider for properly grounding the fence,” Thurlow says. “The output capacity (joules) of the energizer and

the conductivity of the soil where the fence is set up. The greater the charger output, the more grounding rods will be required.”

Sandy or rocky soils aren't as conductive as loamy soils, so systems in these types of soil may need to be an earth return of grounding system (more details at <https://am.gallagher.com/en-NZ/Solutions/Case-Study-Listings/The-Basics-of-Earthing-Your-Electric-Fence>).

“When selecting grounding rods, if the fence wires are galvanized steel, the rods should be galvanized steel, too, to minimize corrosion from electrolysis,” Thurlow says. “Most grounding rods are made of galvanized steel or copper. A general rule is to install a minimum of three feet of grounding rod per joule of energizer output capacity. A 15-joule fence charger requires a minimum of 45 feet of grounding rod.”

Grounding rods must be installed at least 10 feet apart. The wetter the ground, the better the grounding and

performance of the fence.

“You must be aware of any other grounding rods in the vicinity that may be used for a building's electrical system,” Thurlow says. “As a safety precaution, ensure the ground wire is not connected to any grounding rods used for other utilities such as those for electrical boxes.”

If other grounding rods are in the area, the fencing rods must be at least 50 feet away, with the same distance from underground telephone or power cables.

Thurlow's bulletin describes how to train livestock to respect an electric fence, how to avoid stray voltage, protect the energizer from lightning strikes, and how to set up signage that indicates the fence is electrified.

“Always read and follow manufacturer's recommendations for installation,” Thurlow says. “A properly constructed electric fence made with high-quality materials will keep your livestock safe and contained.” **WR**



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Studies show that weaning weights have only increased by one pound per year between 1991 to 2016.

BY GILDA V. BRYANT

# Puttin' on the Pounds

...to hit that perfect weaning weight

**S**uccessfully adding weight when weaning takes planning, knowledge of native and planted forages, and applying proven economic strategies. Creep feeding, growth implants, and supplementation all play a role in calves gaining weight.

Eric Bailey, Ph.D., Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at the University of Missouri, says although genetics

may affect weaning weight, the date a calf is born during the calving season profoundly impacts weight at weaning. “Producers can profit by having more cows calve early in the calving season in addition to placing selection pressure on a weaning weight Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) when selecting a sire,” Bailey explains. “For example, a calf born on the 30th day of the calving season could be 60 pounds lighter at weaning

than a calf born on the first day.”

Studies show that weaning weights have only increased by one pound per year between 1991 to 2016. “That’s a 25-pound difference in 25 years,” Bailey reveals. “I could change the average weaning weight of a herd by 25 pounds in one year by front-loading calving season distribution. Imagine a scenario where 70% of cows calve within the first two weeks of a 90-day calving season instead of the average

**G**lenn Duff, Ph.D., Superintendent of New Mexico State University's Livestock Research Center in Clayton, says digestible forages are critical for stocker animals to maintain their growth curves. The more digestible the plants are, the more weight animals gain and the better they utilize the forage.

"Some feeds are more digestible than others," Duff argues. "Annual crops, such as winter wheat, commonly planted in the Texas Panhandle and the

western United States are very digestible for stockers compared to some native range forages. A lush growing wheat pasture is more digestible before those plants mature."

Can beef producers increase wheat digestibility for stockers with supplements? Duff says operators do not have to supplement calves because lush green winter wheat is so digestible. However, adding protein to calves' diets when they are on more dormant forages provides feed for the rumen's microbes,

which makes the forage more digestible. Food also passes out of the rumen, allowing stockers to take in more forages.

"I would feed a protein supplement," Duff advises. "Look for a product that contains Rumensin®. One problem we can run into with wheat and alfalfa pastures is bloat. Adding Rumensin® to the diet helps to decrease bloat incidents."

Bloat is a form of indigestion that occurs when cattle graze on wheat during spring temperature extremes. Temperature

changes cause plant cells to rupture, releasing sugar, which causes excessive gas in the rumen. Sugars combine with gasses, producing a froth, which traps gasses. Animals cannot remove the ruminal gasses by belching. Producers can break up the bubbles with a dose of mineral oil.

"You can extend the grazing season by supplementing some energy, but if you don't have growth on pastures, take the animals off to prevent overgrazing," Duff concludes.



cow calving on day 45 of a 90-day calving season. In this case, calves would be 17 days older. Assuming a two-pound average daily gain from birth to weaning, the average calf in a herd with front-loaded calving season distribution would be 34 pounds heavier at weaning."

A fan of growth implants, Bailey says they have a minimum of a \$6 return per \$1 invested, typically resulting in 15 to 25 pounds of additional weight

gain in nursing calves. "Try to get implants in calves as early as possible," Bailey concludes. "However, I wouldn't handle them for extra time solely for the sake of implanting. Try to fit one in at branding, then another at weaning."

## WHAT ABOUT CREEP FEEDING?

Jason Banta, Ph.D., with Texas AgriLife Extension, says meeting the cow's nutritional requirements for

protein and controlling weight loss during lactation is essential for cow reproduction and milk production. However, Banta warns that feeding cows extra to increase calf weaning weight is generally not cost-effective.

Creep feeding can help calves gain weight. "In some situations, creep feeding can be an advantage when the added benefit is more than the cost," Banta explains. "Often, creep feeding will cost more than the

# Puttin' on the Pounds

additional weight gain is worth, and it isn't profitable when operators look at the cost of gain and feed conversion."

Conversions with creep feeding can range from three to about 30 pounds

of feed for an additional pound of gain in the calf. Many studies found an average of 12 to 15 pounds of feed for one pound of additional gain, cutting profits sharply.

"Look at the value of the additional weight gain," Banta advises. "Value of gain varies but will generally be about \$0.80 to \$1.15 for each additional pound of gain. "If feed costs \$0.20 per pound and the conversion is ten to one, then the feed cost is more than the additional gain is worth. Anytime producers think about creep feeding,

I encourage them to closely examine the economics and the feed efficiency of nursing calves."

Many operators believe creep feeding is a no-risk practice from an animal health angle. If producers creep feed incorrectly, it can cause founder, foot abscesses, and even death. Heifers may deposit fat in their udders, reducing future milk production. To help prevent health issues, a producer should expose calves to creep feed when they're just a few weeks old and never let the creep feed run out.

To ensure profits with weaned calves, operators must consider the cost of weaning vs. returns. Learning the value of gain is critical. "Most ranchers overestimate what the value of gain is worth," Banta warns. "They don't use the correct numbers to make that distinction. A good forage program with reasonable stocking rates is the most cost-effective way to increase weaning weights."

Deworming calves may improve weaning weights if the calves have been exposed to a significant parasite load. Ranchers should use a deworming strategy appropriate for their area. Operators in regions of higher rainfall may see an economic benefit when deworming calves. Producers with lower precipitation may not see an advantage in deworming.

"Low-stress handling is beneficial anytime because it reduces shrink, and the more we minimize shrink, the more money we have in our pockets," Banta concludes.

## PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS NEEDED

Logan Pribbeno is a fifth-generation producer who operates his family's historic Wine Glass Ranch near Imperial, Nebraska. He has implemented innovative, award-winning management practices for his Hereford-Angus cross cows, such as intensive grazing on native Sandhill pastures and annual forage crops. "The Sandhill range has lush, beautiful green grass," Pribbeno reports, "But the protein drops pretty fast. We supplement our cows with some protein in July and August."

Pribbeno's cattle receive free-choice minerals and distiller grains, the primary supplement in the Great Plains. Although some ranchers use

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"Producers can profit by having more cows calve early in the calving season in addition to placing selection pressure on a weaning weight Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) when selecting a sire," Bailey explains. "For example, a calf born on the 30th day of the calving season could be 60 pounds lighter at weaning than a calf born on the first day."

a feed truck to deposit wet distiller's grains on the ground, Pribbeno prefers offering animals distiller's grain cake or pellets with feed wagons. He has fed cottonseed cake, whole corn, and soybean meal, but the distiller's by-products provide the best value for his operation.

Two to three weeks before weaning, Pribbeno supplements cow-calf pairs with distiller's grain cake to keep their nutritional plane high. He believes this extra energy sets up those cows and calves for success. The dams teach calves how to eat grass and supplements. Using fence line weaning, Pribbeno supplements calves with distiller's by-products to promote weight gain as they graze on native range grasses in the fall. Pribbeno says that during weaning, the calf's psychology changes. Having a calf with a belly full of distiller's cake is a much more enjoyable animal to feed.

"Some operators don't have goals for their cattle," Pribbeno explains. "Supplementing with an objective in mind is crucial for our operation. We know what our breed-up weights, body condition scores, and weaning weights should be. Supplementation is our number one tool to achieve those targets and assist the herd." **WR**

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# Bye Bye Flies!



"The tags we have now are much better than the ones created 10 years ago."

JIM / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Insecticide ear tags can help make your cattle much happier

BY HEATHER SMITH THOMAS

**F**lies, especially horn flies, are a serious pest for cattle in summer. Recent studies have shown that horn flies cost U.S. producers about \$1 billion each year in decreased production. Calves nursing cows that were treated with insecticides gained almost 40 pounds more than calves from untreated cows. Treated cows gained about 60 pounds more (and produced more milk for their calves) than untreated cows. Most cattlemen try to do some kind of fly control to reduce losses from flies and minimize discomfort for their animals.

Dr. Mike Fletcher (who has been developing external parasite control products for Y-Text since 1993) says "fly tags" (insecticide-impregnated ear tags) are probably the most economical way to control flies. "They may not be

the cheapest but they give the most return on your investment and are less labor-intensive than other methods. You apply them in the spring and the fly protection stays with the cow all summer. You don't have to gather the cattle again to re-treat them. Any time you have to gather cattle there is more labor cost plus stress, and weight loss on the animals. There are many advantages to fly tags and this is why they are so popular," he says.

The fly tag business has grown tremendously from its inception in the early 1980s and there are several companies that market these tags. "This technology works. The biggest problem with insecticide tags is the development of resistance; the flies are no longer susceptible to the product. In the early 1980s all the tags utilized pyrethroids.

By about 1985 there was widespread resistance in fly populations and those tags were no longer as effective. That's when we introduced organophosphate tags. This gave us the first rotation; producers could alternate between those two types."

In 2009 a new tag was introduced, containing macrocyclic lactones. This was an ivermectin tag, adding another rotation product. "We still run into issues with rotation but it's usually because the producer doesn't change often enough. He's had a tag that worked well and doesn't want to change, and within 2 or 3 years that kind is no longer effective. You have to change," Fletcher says.

There is now another choice. The producer has the three kinds to rotate and today there is also a combination tag with two ingredients. "It can be very effective—but we don't recommend it for extended use. You wouldn't want to use it two years in a row; it has to be part of a regular rotation program. Horn flies will become resistant to whatever chemical they are exposed to." There are always some stronger flies that survive and they are the ones that are left to reproduce, creating a new crop of resistant flies.

The tag manufacturers recommend putting in tags in late spring when fly numbers on the cattle start to peak.

Remove them in late summer at the end of the label claim period. Leaving tags in too long (after insecticide emission starts to decline) can lead to more resistance issues in the remaining flies. "Producers who follow recommendations have better results than the ones who leave tags in. A good practice is to gather the cattle late summer/early fall (about the time you might be preg-checking and processing them anyway) to remove the tags and treat cattle with a pour-on that's a different chemical than the tag was." This will give cows protection through the rest of the fly season.

"Fly season ends with the first frost. A good rule of thumb is to remove tags about 4 to 6 weeks prior to the normally occurring killing frost. If you used a pyrethroid tag you could use an ivermectin pour-on. If you were using any other kind of tag, you could use any permethrin pour-on. It's economical and will last about 4 weeks."

Some people put two tags on each cow (one in each ear) and none on the calves. Some put tags in the cows and the calves. "It depends on what you want to accomplish. If you are trying to control horn flies, you only need to treat the cows (and bulls) and not the calves. Horn flies don't bother the baby calves until they get larger—such as over 500 pounds," says Fletcher. The calf also gets a little benefit from fly control on the dam, as the calf comes into body contact with her during nursing.

Face flies are a different story, since they irritate the eyes and physically carry bacteria from animal to animal that can cause pinkeye. "Face flies hammer those young calves and calves are also more vulnerable (less disease resistance) to pinkeye than the older animals. If you are worried about face flies, we recommend tagging every animal," he says. This may help decrease incidence of pinkeye in the herd.

The same is true for tick control. "The fly tags can provide a significant amount of tick control depending on the species of tick. The Gulf Coast ticks, for instance are primarily found on the head, so these tags are very effective.

Other tick species prefer other areas of the body, and the farther you get away from the head, the more ticks you may find, but the tags are still helpful in controlling ticks."


Stable flies are more challenging because they don't stay on the animal very long. "Stable flies and face flies are periodic feeders, and spend a limited amount of time on cattle. For stable flies and face flies you get better results using pyrethroid tags because of their repellency," says Fletcher.

Stable flies and face flies are both more prominent in early spring. "The farther north you are, the face flies will be a problem all season long, whereas in the South they are more just a spring pest. You can have good results with fly tags in areas across the mid-part of the U.S. and the South. Stable flies require a high moisture environment (they use moist organic matter like wasted hay and bedding for breeding sites) and are more prevalent in the spring, and maybe again in the fall if it's a wet fall." Stable flies weren't much of a problem for beef cattle until people started using big bales and bale feeders, with a buildup of wasted feed around them.

"The main thing we emphasize is rotation. This is the only way we've been able to make fly tags continue to work for more than 40 years. Billions of fly tags are sold annually, and the technology has gotten better. The tags we have now are much better than the ones created 10 years ago. If producers haven't used fly tags for a while (maybe because the last time they used them, the tags were not very effective), they will probably work better now, for two reasons. The tags are better, and if you haven't used fly tags for a year or more, the flies on your place are probably no longer resistant! If you are not getting good results, we recommend staying away from fly tags for a couple of years."

Use alternative methods and then come back to a type of tag that contains a chemical you have not been using in pour-ons, dusters, oils and other alternative methods of control. **WR**





When planning a vaccination protocol, work with your herd health veterinarian.

**WR takes a peek at popular calf vaccination protocols**

HELLE / SHUTTERSTOCK

# Make a Protection Connection

**S**tockmen generally vaccinate their calves, but the vaccines chosen and the timing may vary, depending on the situation—such as calving season and environment for young calves, and plans for selling them. Sometimes the vaccination program is different for calves sold right off the cow (and processed/vaccinated when they arrive at the feedlot), than for calves “preconditioned” and kept awhile after weaning. It is important to get them past the stress of weaning and healthy for the next owner, or for calves that are kept over winter as replacement heifers or grass stockers before selling them.

Dr. Chris Chase, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, South Dakota State

University, says most people vaccinate calves at branding time. “We published a paper recently looking at vaccinating calves at 30 days of age, giving a single dose of a combination parenteral (injectable) viral-Mannheimia vaccine, and comparing the use of an intranasal vaccine for IBR-PI3 and BRSV and a concurrent parenteral Mannheimia/BVD vaccine. Unless you have some early pneumonia issues in baby calves, vaccinating a beef calf before 30 to 40 days of age is not a good idea,” he says.

“The exception is if you can use an intranasal vaccine. There are some questions about maternal antibodies interfering with a calf’s ability to build immunity. If it’s a well-adjuvanted

parenteral vaccine, calves will actually have a pretty good memory response. In the study we just finished, for BVD, the calves developed their own antibodies from the vaccine even though they had maternal BVD antibodies. We followed them for 5 months after we vaccinated and could see that their antibody titers didn’t decline; they actually went up,” he says.

It depends on which vaccine you use, but a young calf’s immune system is immature and if they have good antibody transfer from the dam, they may not respond very well to a vaccine. “There are T-cells and B-cells present; they just don’t work that great, early on. An intranasal vaccine can help with that, but unless a rancher is having a problem with summer pneumonia, I’d

**BY HEATHER SMITH THOMAS**

rather wait until the immune system is a little more mature.” It’s better to vaccinate at about 2-plus months old rather than 2 weeks old.

### AT BRANDING

“If they can be at least 45 days of age, I’m happy with that. We can get away with doing it at 30 days, but not 21 days. If calves are less than 30 days, their immature immune system still has a ways to go. In a perfect world, vaccinations starting at 45 days minimum would be good—whether we’re looking at selling them right off the cow, or preconditioned after weaning, or retaining ownership.” They all need that vaccination while they are still on the cow.

“It is important to use a viral vaccine, and a Mannheimia vaccine. There is also a Mycoplasma vaccine on the market now, which could be used if a producer has an issue with this disease. Currently it’s mainly used in dairies in young calves; it’s yet to be seen how it might be used in beef calves,” he says.

Most producers use a 7 or 8-way Clostridial vaccine that includes blackleg. Every calf needs protection from these acute and deadly diseases, and this type of vaccine (a toxoid) can be given at a fairly young age. “But for viral diseases that cause respiratory issues, if we can give those a little later, we get better immunity and longer duration of immunity. I think we need to make sure all calves get vaccinated at some point during that 45 to 60-day window, regardless of whether you plan to retain or sell those calves at weaning,” says Chase.

### AT WEANING

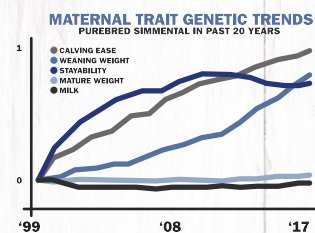
“The next thing to think about is revaccinating those calves at some point before weaning—at 4 to 6 months of age—and then again a month or two after weaning; they need another dose of modified-live virus vaccine so we know they have good immunity. We do this with two things in mind. First, we are concerned about respiratory disease, and the other thing is that if we retain any of those heifers to go back into the herd, they need to have strong immunity and good protection against IBR and BVD. Those are the two serious issues we have with reproduction—both for abortion

# STAY ABILITY



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# Make a Protection Connection

for IBR and BVD and for BVD PI (persistently infected) calves.” We need to make sure heifers get adequate protection before they ever get bred.

“If I’m going to sell the calves, even if they will be sold right off the cow, it all goes back to what I will be paid, in whatever system it might be. If we are looking at the Texas ranch to rail system, or any other preconditioning program (Vac-45, etc.) to get a premium for those calves, the producer needs to be tied into it, with verification.” If you just say they are preconditioned, without some kind of tag or documentation, you may not get that price boost, especially if you are just taking them to an auction yard.

If a rancher sells directly to a feedlot, with a good history of healthy calves, that’s one thing; the feed-yard will probably pay top dollar. But just taking calves through a sale barn, saying that those calves are preconditioned could mean a lot of things and there’s no guarantee they’ll bring a better price. “You want them to be healthy, but if you are vaccinating them, you want some return on your investment. When preconditioning calves, I suggest getting in on a program where you can document it—especially when utilizing video sales that promote certain preconditioning programs. This is where

it has the most value because there is brand recognition,” he says.

“If you plan to get one more dose of modified-live virus vaccine into those calves after weaning, do it at least a couple weeks before selling them. Otherwise the protection may not be as good as you’d want. When talking about modified-live vaccines, I don’t consider them a booster. Each time I give it to those calves, I realize that some of them didn’t ‘take’ or build immunity with the first dose, and some may not even take with the second dose, but if I give that third dose (after weaning) there’s more chance that almost all of them have gained immunity. This is especially important if I’m going to keep them,” Chase says.

“If I plan to sell at weaning, I want to have at least two doses in them. Usually by the time you give two doses, with that second dose at 4 months or so of age, you can probably count on having at least 80 to 85% of them responding, and that’s pretty good for herd immunity, especially for IBR and BVD,” he says.

“BRSV is a little different because it is more infectious and spreads easier than the other two through a herd. This is one reason some people started using intranasal vaccine. If a ranch has had problems with summer pneumonia and BRSV, it might pay to give an intranasal BRSV vaccine when calves are born, depending on what age pneumonia hits those calves. Some people give an intranasal vaccine as well as a parenteral vaccine at 45 days of age. It would be a ranch-by-ranch situation, because

with some operations summer pneumonia is not an issue,” says Chase.

## BACKGROUNDING

If calves are held over winter to put on grass next spring (to sell later as yearlings) they should have the same vaccination program as replacement heifers. “Any that you retain ownership on, as stockers or whatever, need at least three doses of modified-live vaccines—at 45 days of age, again at 4 or 5 months, and the third one after weaning. You may also want to give another dose of clostridial vaccine.”

“Using a viral/bacterial combo can be a good idea. That approach makes a lot of sense, rather than giving multiple vaccines; the companies have done all the necessary studies to show they are efficacious against those diseases, in order to get licenses for those vaccines. People wonder if the combo vaccines have too many antigens, but it’s all been worked out in these parenteral combinations. The Enforce and the One Shot BVD are two different vaccine products, however, and are not licensed to be used together. By contrast, the Bovi-Shield One Shot or Pyramid / Presponse, or Vista or Once PMH or Titanium-PHM have all been worked out and can be given as a single dose,” says Chase.

When planning a vaccination protocol, work with your herd health veterinarian. He/she can advise you on products and timing for best efficacy in your own situation, and to fit with your plans for marketing or keeping those calves. **WR**





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# ranch wheels

## The Country Kitchen and ATVs

Massimo MSA 550



experience. You can shop dealers carrying big-name vehicles. Or, you can consider other brands that might better fit your needs and your pocketbook.

Ride along as we explore the 2023 models from manufacturers you might not have ever considered or even heard of. Join us for a look at ATVs from Massimo, Argo, Vitacci and Can-Am.

### MASSIMO MSA 550

With headquarters in Garland, Texas, Massimo Motor Sports has a broad range of off-road and on-road vehicles including ATVs, UVs and motorcycles.

The Massimo MSA 550 features a single-cylinder 4-stroke engine with electronic fuel injection putting out 33 hp. The 550 can reach speeds up to 49 mph and the on-demand 2WD/4WD system includes a locking differential. The 550's 10.5" of ground clearance and 25" tires let the ATV tackle most terrain with ease.

Front suspension on the 550 is McPherson independent type and the rear suspension is independent dual A-arm. Couple the suspension with the 57.5" wheelbase and you get good stability and a short turning radius. All brakes on the MSA 550 are hydraulic disc type.

With 374-pound load capacity and the ability to tow 1200 pounds, the MSA 550 will handle your heavy-duty tasks. Standard features include electric power steering, a 3,000-pound winch, LED lights, front bumper,

**N**ame recognition can be a good thing. Drive into any McDonald's restaurant, for example, and you know exactly what to expect.

Driving through a small town in central Texas at breakfast time recently, I could have stopped for an Egg McMuffin (there's that name recognition.) My other option in Lampasas was the Country Kitchen half a mile back where every pickup in the county was parked. I opted for the Country Kitchen. The food at this local cafe turned out to be excellent and the service outstanding.

Shopping for something that has name recognition is comfortable and doesn't involve much decision-making. The Country Kitchen was an unknown for me, but they had exactly what I wanted and great service. I could have gone with the big name

for their signature breakfast sandwich, but I took a chance and found the unknown to be exactly what I was looking for at a price less than the mass marketer.

Buying an ATV to speed up summer chores can be a lot like my breakfast



Argo Explorer  
XR 500 EPS 4 X 4



their riding style and load. Electronic power steering on the XR 500 uses automated sensors calibrated by speed and torque to provide the capability for sharp directional changes and to alleviate fatigue.

The 3,000-pound winch on the XR 500 is standard, as are steel front and rear racks that give you up to 323 pounds combined carrying capacity. The XR 500 also has multiple tie-down points for gear and comes with a rugged 2" receiver hitch. Towing capacity of this ATV is 1,000 pounds.

The standard multi-function digital display on the 500 includes odometer, speedometer, trip meter, tachometer, transmission position and lots more information. Headlights on the Argos are LED with high and low beams.

The XR 500 has a factory-installed feature Argo calls "bring it on." I have no idea what that is, but the website says it is "industry-leading," so it must be important. Argo also builds side-by-side vehicles and a wide range of six and eight-wheeled amphibious

handguards and a passenger backrest.

The MSA 550 comes with a full range of information on its digital display, including speedometer, odometer, tachometer, hour meter, gear indicator, 4WD indicator, differential lock indicator, headlight indicator, fuel gauge, high temp and a USB port.

Massimo products are assembled in Texas and your Massimo MSA 550 can be bought in any of seven colors.

See the Massimo MSA 550 at a local dealer or [www.massimomotor.com](http://www.massimomotor.com)

## ARGO EXPLORER XR 500 EPS 4 X 4

The Argo website says, "There's some rough stuff out there. Devious dunes, rain-soaked, mucky riverbeds, manure-dotted fields and gullies marred with hulking rocks." I wonder if those hulking rocks are as devious as the dunes? But I digress. Back to the Argo Explorer XR 500 EPS 4 X 4 (let's call it the XR 500 to save a few trees and lots of ink.)

The Argo XR 500 offers a 443cc, liquid-cooled, 4-valve, EFI power plant and automatic CVT with engine braking. Translation: the Argo engine has Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI) and instead of gears, they use a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) which relies

on cone-shaped pulleys to transfer power from the engine. The XR 500 lets you switch from 2WD to 4WD with the push of a button and the ATV has a locking front differential.

Front and rear suspensions are double A-arm type with extended travel. Preloaded shocks are adjustable, so riders can match the suspension to

Vitacci



# ranch wheels

vehicles for those of you ranching alligators...

Check out all the Argo features at <https://argoxtv.com/vehicles/xplorer-xr-500>

## VITACCI

Vitacci's US headquarters are in the Dallas Metroplex. The motorbikes, ATVs, scooters, go-karts, golf carts and e-bikes offered by Vitacci, however, are imported from China.

The Vitacci Terminator 300 4 x 4 is a full-sized quad with a 257cc, liquid-cooled, single-cylinder engine putting out 22 hp. Independent McPherson front suspension and socket centering structure rear suspension make your ride more enjoyable. Front and rear brakes are all hydraulic disc type, which is good since the Terminator 300 can travel up to 60 mph. The wheelbase of the Terminator 300 is 51", so watch those sharp turns at 60 mph.

Selectable 2WD/4WD is standard and this ATV comes with front and rear cargo racks standard. The

Terminator 300 includes a backrest for the driver and a standard front winch. It also comes with a 90-day warranty.

See the Vitacci color options, including camo, at <https://www.vitacci.com/atvs/terminator-300/>

## CAN-AM

Can-Am is a Canadian company (Canada-America=Can-Am) whose ATVs are built by the Finnish company, BRP, at a factory in Mexico. (Ask for extra passport stamps with every purchase.) BRP also builds Evinrude boat motors and other marine products.

The Can-Am Outlander 500/700 series uses Rotax brand single-cylinder, liquid-cooled engines coupled with their pDrive clutch. (Rotax engines are high-performance powersport motors manufactured in Austria.) The 500 version of the Outlander has a 40 hp engine while the 700 model carries a 50 hp engine. The 500/700 series can include tri-mode dynamic power steering, front and rear bumpers, and Visco-Lok auto-locking front differential.

Some versions of the Outlander

500/700 include a front winch rated at 3,500 pounds. All models of the ATV have new ergonomic seats, LED headlights and taillights and a full skid plate. The Outlander series features 12" of ground clearance.

Outlander towing capacity is 1830 pounds while this series of ATV can carry 120 pounds on the front cargo rack and 240 pounds on the rear. All Outlander models have a one-gallon storage bin, and some versions sport a USB port and a magnetic phone mount. A vertical chainsaw holder integrated into a fender is an interesting option. The Outlander series can be purchased with multiple windshield heights or an adjustable-height windshield.

Go to <https://can-am.brp.com/off-road/us/en/customize-your-own/all-terrain-vehicles/outlander-500-700.html> for all the details or visit your nearest Can-Am dealer.

So, there you have it. An international lineup of ATVs with parts from all over the world, yet very similar features. McDonald's or the Country Kitchen? You decide. **WR**



Can-Am

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# Terry's RANCHWEAR REVIEW

Apparel for the  
WORKING RANCH

## These HATS *Are where it's at*



Tom's been a long-time palm leaf proponent for warm weather wear, but last summer he made the switch to a Twister straw.

**F**or lots of years, you could tell where someone came from by the shape of their hat. Each is shaped out of necessity but represents a culture, and lets you know what region the man or woman under it called home. And maybe that's still the case to a certain extent.

According to my reader research and the growing popularity of, and interest in, the American West, it's getting harder and harder to tell the region folks are from by the hat on their heads.

### **Tom's Take**

As we've established in a previous Ranchwear Review, I'm more of a ball-cap kinda gal. So, we've got Tom here this time with his take on hats.

### **TWISTER HATS**

He's been a long-time palm leaf proponent for warm weather wear, but last summer he made the switch to a Twister straw. He was looking for something a little lighter in weight and honestly, something that wouldn't hold onto sweat quite as bad as the palm leaf.

"I love this hat. It's lighter than my palm leaves have been, and it's not as hot either," said Tom. Since he's only

had it a year, and at the time of writing it hasn't been warm enough to put it back on, we can't speak to longevity yet. But, after one warm season's worth of wear, it still looks like new. So, there's that.

Twister Hats can be found in various retailers, including but not limited to - Cavender's, Boot Barn, and Sheplers.

### **Reader's Choice**

When I polled readers, the overwhelming consensus from those who responded was that their hat shape wasn't influenced by region but rather what fit and felt best. So I have a few readers' recs on brands and custom hatters.

## FRICKIN HAT COMPANY

One of the custom hatters recommended was Frickin Hat Company. Hatter and owner, Marit Frick, handcrafts quality, custom felt hats from rural North Dakota.

“Whether you’re looking for a traditional cowboy hat or an authentic hat that adds to your signature style, I can create something made for just you,” Marit says.

I hadn’t heard of Marit or Frickin Hat Company before the writing of this ranchwear review, but I gotta say – I am intrigued by Marit and her creativity.

Order your Frickin Hat at, [www.frickinhatcompany.com](http://www.frickinhatcompany.com)

## GREELEY HAT WORKS

Greeley Hat Works was also among

the reader-recommended hatters. It has a storied history, but since its establishment in 1909, very few things have changed about Greeley Hat Works, other than its name and owners. Greeley Hat Works provides a service and an outlet of personal expression for anyone interested in wearing a hat just like it did more than a hundred years ago. The company uses traditional Parisian hat-making tools that the shop coined “retro-tech” to build every hat.

“From politicians and celebrities to ranchers and fashionistas, we provide the highest quality products and impeccable customer service to all walks of life.”

To shop Greeley Hat Works or submit a custom order, visit [www.greeleyhatworks.com](http://www.greeleyhatworks.com)

## SERRATELLI

Since 1878, the Serratelli family has been making hats right here in the good ol’ U.S. of A. And that’s a big part of what readers stated they love about their Serratelli hats.

“They’re American-made and reasonably priced, especially for the quality,” one reader said of their Serratelli hat.

Find your Serratelli hat at Boot Barn, Sheplers, Cavender’s, and other retailers.

Be sure to follow @workingranch-magazine and me (@terrryn.drieling) on Instagram to watch me try on, test out, and work in the ranchwear we feature here, let us know what works for you, and tell us what you’d like to see me try next. **WR**

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## Duds For Dad

By "T"

Need a great Father's Day gift idea for the dad who'd give you the shirt off his back? Here are a few of our favorite brands for work and play.

### Ely Cattleman

Ely Cattleman offers a wide variety of shirts in buttons and snaps, short and long sleeves. They've got styles from Retros and Textured Plaids to Flannels and Cotton Prints, but our favorites are their Cattleman Classics. No matter your preference, you can be sure you're getting a high-quality shirt at a great price from Ely Cattleman.

[www.elycattleman.com](http://www.elycattleman.com)

### Wrangler

No lie - Wrangler has a shirt to suit dang near any personal style. A couple of our favorites for long sleeve styles are the Premium Performance Advanced Comfort Cowboy Cut® Long Sleeve and the Men's Cowboy Cut Work Chambray Long Sleeve. These shirts hold up to ranch work and look good goin' out on the town. And in short sleeves, we love the Wrangler Rugged Wear® Short Sleeve Easy Care Plaid Button-Down. Their blend of recycled fibers and cotton lends itself to their comfort and how well they wash up.

[www.wrangler.com](http://www.wrangler.com)

### Stetson

Hear the word Stetson and the first thing that comes to mind is hats. But this legendary hat brand also has quite the selection when it comes to shirts. Paisleys, plaids, denims, and solids - if you're looking for a pearl snap shirt that Dad can dress up or down, wear on the town or riding the range, Stetson's got you covered.

[www.stetson.com](http://www.stetson.com) **WR**



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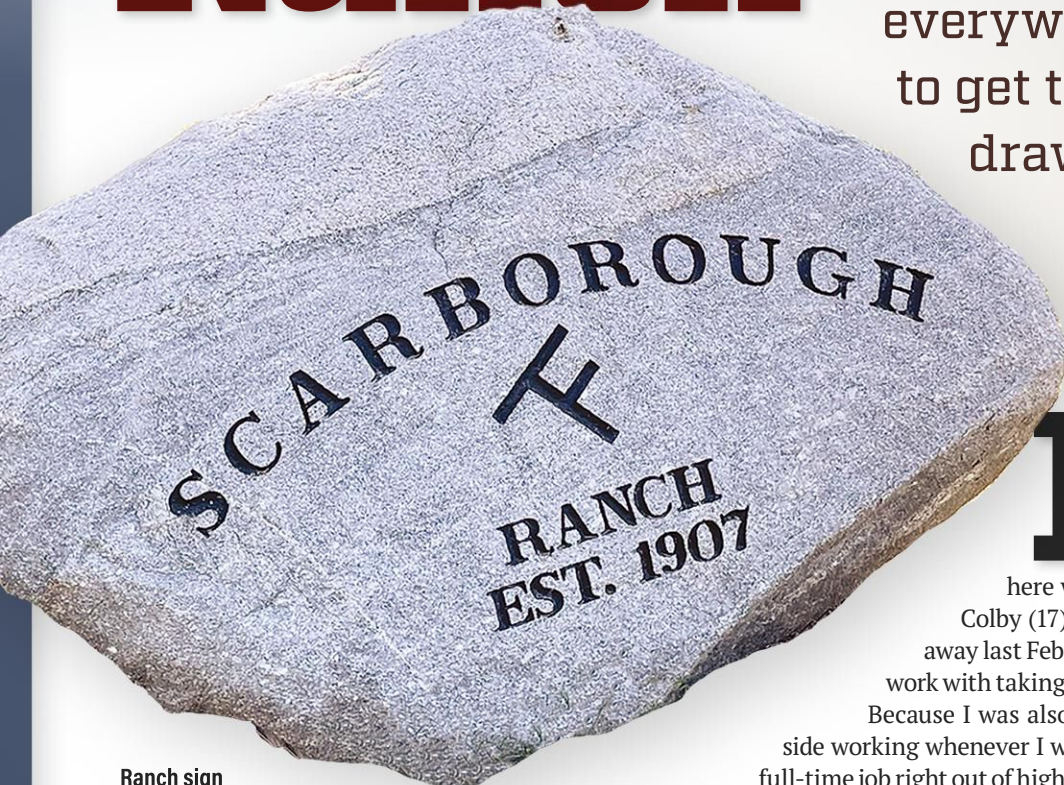


BY MARLI SCARBOROUGH



# Easter on the Scarborough Ranch

A blizzard, puppies everywhere, an attempt to get through a drifted draw, and the power of faith on this Missouri outfit



Ranch sign

**H**i! My name is Marli Scarborough, and I'm a fifth-generation rancher near Hayes, South Dakota. I live and work here with my dad, Marc, and two brothers, Colby (17) and Liam (9). Since my mom passed away last February, my dad and I balance the ranch work with taking care of (and homeschooling) the boys. Because I was also homeschooled, I was able to be outside working whenever I wanted growing up, and it became my full-time job right out of high school. We have both crops and cattle, but my passion is working with the cattle.



# Rancher's Journal

We run about 500 head of cattle that calve in May through June and August through September (although we have an accidental calf in July from one herd or the other almost every year, so we might as well say we calve from May to September.)

## 12-Day Journal of Marli Scarborough

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

Today was supposed to be warm and sunny — a good day to get ready for the coming blizzard. Instead, it barely broke 35, and there was a cold east wind. We did some extra chores, moved a few groups of cattle around for better protection, and tried to prepare as best we could. By mid-afternoon I couldn't find anything more to prepare, I'm just very, very glad we're not calving.

Colby (my 17-year-old brother) was supposed to go to prom on the other side of the state Friday night, so near dark he and Dad left to get ahead of the weather, leaving me to ride out the storm with my nine-year-old brother Liam and my grandparents who were visiting for the weekend.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

The morning was not so bad; just some light precipitation. At first, it looked like it could turn icy, but the rain quickly turned to snow. I got the feeding done as quickly as possible but left some of the bale processor hay to feed later. By 9:00 a.m. it was snowing hard and the wind was starting to pick up.

The snow continued through the afternoon, and by 3:30 p.m. when I went to make the rounds (thanks to the side-by-side with tracks) there was almost zero visibility. I got the bale processor and gave two groups of cows some extra hay to help hold them behind the windbreak, plus some straw for the fall calves that were weaned ten days ago.

I could see the power lines bouncing like crazy, and the power kept flashing off and on, so I was a little worried about losing it altogether. But with nothing more to do besides praying for the power to stay on, I went back to the house to do some cleaning (a daily chore with a litter of six-week-old puppies in the house.)

The power did stay on, and by 6:00 p.m. the snow had stopped and I could see for a mile or two. By 10:00 p.m., I could even see the stars! It was a pretty intense blizzard for a few hours but thankfully didn't last too long.



A litter of puppies at the ranch

# Scarborough Ranch

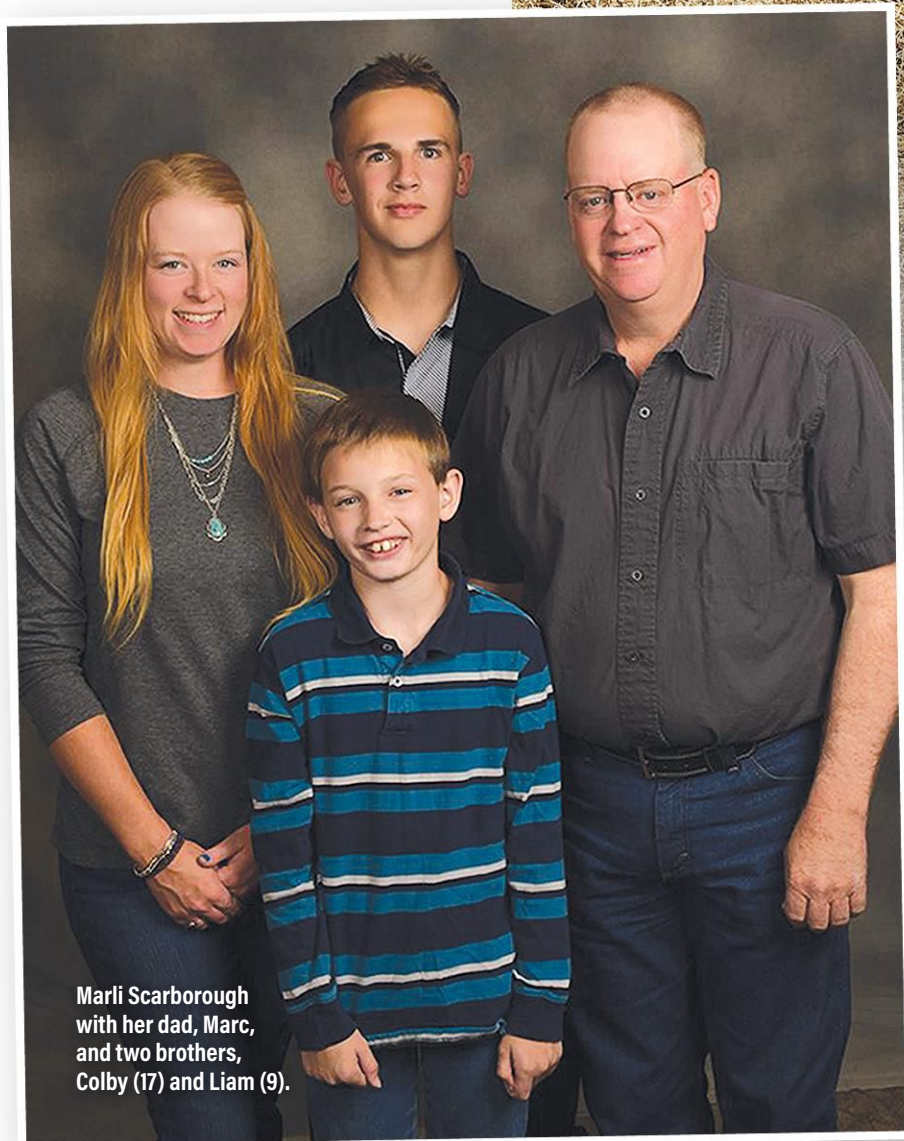
Scarborough Ranch is a fifth-generation ranch located in Hayes, South Dakota

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

The morning was cold, but perfectly clear and it started to warm up as soon as the sun hit. I started by moving some snow, first with the payloader and then the skid-steer, before feeding.

By the time I was done with feeding, Dad was home, and he spent most of the afternoon moving snow with the dozer tractor. The sun helped, too, because by late afternoon the plowed spots were starting to dry.

In the evening I headed to Hayes, about 25 minutes away, to be in a play.



Marli Scarborough with her dad, Marc, and two brothers, Colby (17) and Liam (9).

This was my first year as part of the cast, but the 70th year for the play! It's a community tradition that I'm excited to be a part of.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

Palm Sunday, but I barely had time to think about it. Church is an hour away, so we don't get there every Sunday, and this was one of those weeks. By the time chores were done, it was time to leave for the second performance of the play, and it was supertime before I got home.

In the evening I finished up a project I'd been working on for a few days — wrapping chicken wire around my bum calf pen to make a cage for the puppies so they can live in the shop. The mess is getting to be too much for my little mudroom, and besides, it's weaning time. After moving the puppies out there, I gave the mudroom a



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- Jake Hovden, Southern Accent Farms, Decarah, IA



# Scarborough Ranch

good scrub and laid out the soft, plush dog bed for Mama. She was much happier than most cows are after weaning!

## MONDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

Started the week by deleting my Facebook and Instagram apps. Although sharing about what we do on the ranch is an important part of my

life, I've gotten to a point where I'm doing more scrolling than sharing, and the week leading up to Easter seems like a good time to reset and refocus.

After the rush of the weekend, I was hoping for a bit of a rest day, but with another storm coming on that has to be put off another day. We started the morning by preg-testing the fall

cows. We ran through them pretty fast and were happy with the results — the breeding percentage was higher than average, and it seems like we had less to cull. It may be cold today, but these 165 cows will be calving in the heat of August!

The afternoon was spent preparing for the storm — it sounds like this one could be much worse than Friday's. Dad moved windbreaks around, and we let the fall cows out into a pasture with deep draws and thick brush. I keep hearing things like "generational storm," but I feel like I've heard that a lot of times in my life so I'm not sure how much stock to put in it. By evening everything is as bedded down as can be, so there's nothing more to do.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

Woke up to a very pretty blanket of fluffy snow. The wind hadn't come up yet, and it was more 'winter wonderland' than a roaring blizzard. The snow hadn't drifted into many of the feed bunks yet, so Dad was able to feed most of the feed wagon loads as usual, and I fed the bale processor hay to the two main cow herds.

After chores, there wasn't much else that could be done, so I spent most of the day in either my house, my dad's house, or the shop. I gave my house a good cleaning and started on some projects I'd been putting off; watched part of a Lord of the Rings movie with my brothers; spent lots of time letting the puppies run around the shop. The snow came down pretty steadily all day, and by evening it was mostly done. Dad plowed a few trails just to make it easier to walk between the two houses and the shop but waited on the rest until morning.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

By this morning the snow had stopped, but the wind was blowing and visibility wasn't great. We usually go to church on Wednesday evenings, but that was canceled, so we settled in for another day at home. By evening it



was pretty clear and we probably could have gotten to town, but it was a relief not to have to make that decision.

The final tally on the snow is about 12-18 inches, so Dad spent a lot of the afternoon plowing. In a week it's going to be a muddy mess, but after two years of drought, it's hard to complain. Every time I was outside I found myself making a mental list of all the things that will need to be done when we get dug out. So I tried to use my inside time to catch up on things that I won't have time for in a few days.

Oh, and I ended the day on a fun note. I went out in the side-by-side with tracks on it to check the cows and tried going through a draw that drifted in about 3 feet deep. I should have known better; I've seen people get stuck in that draw before, but I think I expected it to be packed a bit harder. Dad had to come to rescue me with the tractor, and for a minute I thought we were going to get that stuck, too. Apparently just because your side-by-side has tracks doesn't mean you can go anywhere. But we got it out and I (maybe) learned my lesson.

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>**

I think the high for the day was in the mid-30s, but the sun was so bright and warm that it felt like a beautiful spring day. And by looking at the forecast, it would seem winter has had its last hurrah. (Unless it's just waiting to surprise us.)

Today was our day to go to town and catch up on errands after the storm. The puppies got their first round of shots, and one of them went home to her new family. Dad brought them home while I stayed to do errands and go to Bible study.

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

I'm pretty sure one of the most underrated time sinks of ranch life is driving time. After being in town yesterday, Dad and Colby turned around and went back in for an appointment early in the morning. That made my routine a little different since I did all of the feeding chores.

They were back by about noon, though, and later in the afternoon, we went to look at some bulls. The sale



**April blizzards in South Dakota mean extra work for everyone**

is tomorrow, but since they're only about twenty minutes away we went to look at them ahead of time. It was a little hard to walk through the pen with all the mud from melting snow, but it was warm and sunny. Liam came along and made friends with lot 71 — he insists that's the one we need to buy, but he's near the end of the sale so we'll see!

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Chores and regular stuff in the morning, then by noon we left for the bull sale. We dropped Liam off at the neighbors' on the way. Most of the places we buy bulls from are several hours away, and the last couple of years we've just stayed home and done online bidding — which I think makes

it slightly less nerve-wracking to keep up with the auctioneer. Thankfully my dad is much better at that and successfully bought two bulls.

We picked Liam up from the neighbors' and stayed for a while visiting and enjoying the sunshine while the kids dug a trench through the puddles in their yard. It was suppertime when we got home, but I was amazed by how much time is left in the evening to be outside in the daylight. I finished the evening by shredding a roast I had put in the crockpot and making buns for the Easter potluck at church.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>**

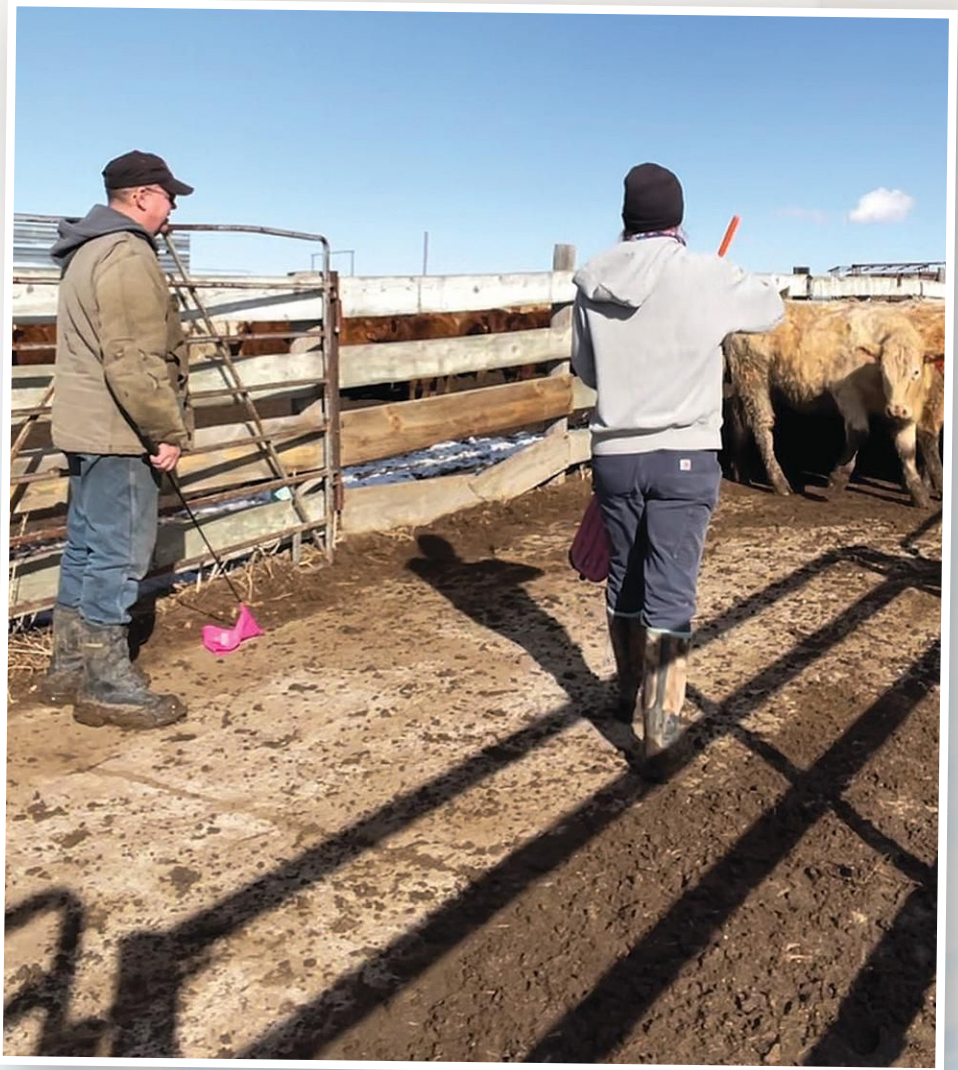
Happy Easter! We got chores done and headed to town for church and the Easter potluck. And to be honest,

# Scarborough Ranch

it wasn't the greatest day. This is supposed to be a "journal" about my ranch life, not a "diary" about my personal life, but the truth is as ag producers our mental, physical, and spiritual health is all directly tied in with what we do every day — and mine wasn't great on this day. If that was where this journal ended, it might be a bit of a downer.

But it's not, because it was still Easter. And the message of Easter, of the Savior who rose from the dead, is greater than all the highs and lows of life. That doesn't change depending on how you feel. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our greatest hope regardless of what kind of day you have on Easter Sunday.

Although my Easter didn't look the way I had planned, I kind of crashed and was forced to take the rest I knew I'd been needing all week. Ranch life involves a lot of work, but I'm constantly learning just how important it is to prioritize rest, too. So I took a long, slow walk through all the lots, just enjoying the sunshine and the cattle. I'm so grateful for this life where I can be outside when I need it, whether that's working or resting. Thanks for reading my journal! **WR**



It may be cold today, but these 165 cows will be calving in the heat of August!



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# American Angus Association

BY HEATHER SMITH THOMAS

# 150 YEARS OF ANGUS

## in America



**C**attle were crucial to the early settlers in North America. The first Europeans came from Spain and brought Spanish cattle with them in the early 1500s. Some of the descendants of those cattle became feral and were progenitors of the prolific “longhorns” in Mexico and the American southwest.

Later settlers from the British Isles brought Shorthorns to the American colonies. When brought to Virginia in 1783, they were called Durham. In 1817, Kentucky Statesman Henry Clay imported the first Herefords from England. Longhorn, Shorthorn, and Hereford were the main “breeds” in America until Angus arrived.

Mark McCully, CEO of the American Angus Association, says May 2023 will be the 150th anniversary of the first Angus in America, imported from Scotland. “George Grant brought some Angus bulls to Victoria, Kansas in 1873 and turned them out on the Kansas prairies with some longhorn cows. This was the beginning of the Angus breed in the U.S.” says McCully.

Grant was an innovative entrepreneur. He was a cloth merchant from Scotland who learned that Queen Victoria’s husband Prince Albert was near death. Anticipating

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**It all began in Scotland. “George Grant brought some Angus bulls to Victoria, Kansas in 1873 and turned them out on the Kansas prairies with some longhorn cows. This was the beginning of the Angus breed in the U.S.” says American Angus Association CEO Mark McCully.**



the demand for mourning badges, he cornered some of the black crepe markets and made a great deal of money.

He saw some Angus cattle and was intrigued by them. “They were considered freaks because they were polled — and all the other breeds were horned. Also, there were no other breeds at that time that were solid black. Angus cattle were very different,” McCully says.

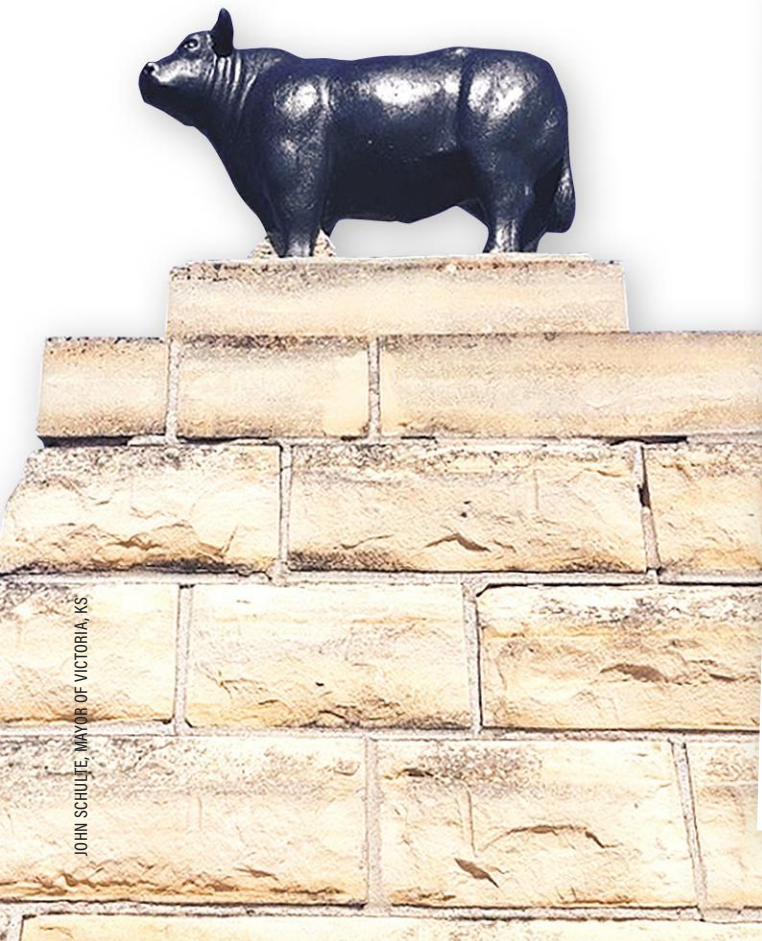
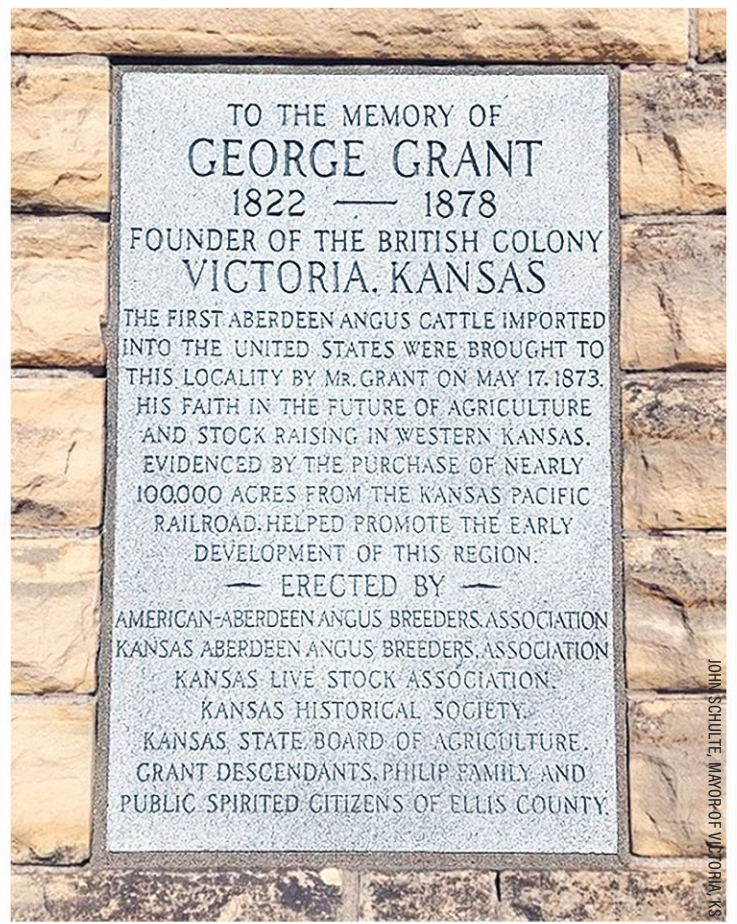
A few stockmen in the U.S. started raising Angus, and 10 years after that first importation, they formed the American Aberdeen Angus Breeders Association in Chicago. “In 1902 the Association moved its headquarters to the Chicago Union Stockyards. This was their headquarters until 1956 when it was moved to St. Joseph, Missouri — after the Association outgrew the office at the Exchange Building,” he says.

“They were looking for a new home and put out bids to various cities. The St. Joseph Market was one of the prominent markets at that time, along with Fort Worth and St. Louis, and a few others. St. Joseph won the bid and was attractive to the leadership of the Association at that time. They moved to Missouri and that’s when they shortened the name to American Angus Association,” McCully says.

### IMPRESSIVE GROWTH OVER THE DECADES

The breed was popular, and during the 1950s and 60s the Association started collecting performance data. “Before that, the only means for selection was visual appraisal and pedigrees. Breeders started taking weights and measures; that was the early beginning of performance breeding and objective measures of selecting Angus cattle.”

Another big landmark was in 1972 when the board



# 150 YEARS

approved the use of open artificial insemination. “This was a controversial topic. Some breeders thought that no one would need a bull anymore (and they wouldn’t have a market for bulls), so they fought this change. We now understand the benefits of that technology.” AI enables any breeder to use some of the very best genetics, with proven bulls, to improve their herds and make genetic progress.

“In 1978 the Association launched the Certified Angus Beef brand and also purchased the Angus Journal. Before that, there were very few branded beef programs so this was a novel idea at that time — to set specifications that Angus-type cattle would have to meet and qualify for this trademark, and have a marketing program centered around it, to drive value for registered Angus seedstock. This is the same model we operate with today,” says McCully.

Before 1978 the Angus Journal was published by a private group, but by 1978 the Association’s leadership felt it would be best to have an official publication and brought the Angus

Journal in-house. “We have various entities within the Association; Angus Publications, Inc. is its own entity, and so is Certified Angus Beef.”

The late 1970s was an important time in the beef industry. “We’d reached a crossroads; people were thinking fat in the diet was bad and cattlemen were bringing in European breeds because they were big, fast-growing, heavily muscled, and very lean. We weren’t paying much attention to meat quality. Angus breeders at the time saw an opportunity, knowing that marbling was a strong trait in Angus cattle — and the beef industry was going the other direction,” he says.

“Angus breeders knew marbling is what ensures a high-quality eating experience for consumers, so they focused on this. They went against the grain because the beef industry was petitioning to lower the grading standards and got that accomplished during the 1970s. Certified Angus Beef and the Angus breed was swimming upstream, for a while.” The big exotic cattle influenced almost all the breeds in America, however; most breeds hurried to change to larger cattle. Angus also became larger, and in some instances too large.

“When you look at the history of any breed, they go through cycles, chasing what’s popular. Some of the cattle during the 80s were so tall you couldn’t see over the top of them (in contrast

to the too-small cattle of the 1950s).

“Fast-forward through the 1980s: Angus started to regain popularity. During the 1970s and early 80s, Angus registrations were declining and breeders were losing market share; the big exotics were in the spotlight. The tide turned in the 1980s as Certified Angus Beef and the impact of maternal qualities of the Angus cow had an effect. Angus cows were a stable entity for the commercial producer.”

## ALL ABOUT THE MOMMA COW

McCully worked for Certified Angus Beef for 20 years. “CAB gets a lot of credit for the popularity of Angus cattle, but I always say that CAB would never have worked, had it not been for the Angus cow and her qualities (good mother, plenty of milk, etc.) She was the backbone of the whole thing. Had she not been a good cow, no matter how much demand there was for the end product, we could never have overcome production issues back at the ranch,” he says.

The breed continued to grow, and by 2008 another entity was formed in the Association: genomics and DNA testing. “The Association started a subsidiary called Angus Genetics, Inc. to work with this testing and the labs. This was the same time that many of the universities were getting out of the genetic evaluation business. The Angus Association started a company that could do genetic evaluations for the Association and was able to offer



Mark McCully, CEO  
of the American  
Angus Association.

“CAB gets a lot of credit for the popularity of Angus cattle, but I always say that CAB would never have worked, had it not been for the Angus cow and her qualities. She was the backbone of the whole thing.”

genetic evaluations for other breeds. Today we do this for the Charolais, Maine Anjou, and some of the other Angus societies in other countries.”

Within the past dozen years, genomically-enhanced EPDs became available, and the Angus breed was the leader at that forefront. “This brings us to where we are today. Certified Angus Beef has reached more than a billion pounds sold annually, and last year returned \$182,000,000 in grid premiums directly back to producers. We have also launched a program called Angus Link, which is another value-added program to help producers using registered Angus bulls to document the genetic merit in their feeder cattle, and help convey that to potential buyers,” he says.

“The popularity of Angus cattle and black hides has resulted in 70% of fed cattle being black-hided. Many of the other breeds have added Angus genetics and selected for black hides, and polled.” This has helped in marketing those breeds, since black-hided cattle bring more to market, and ranchers don’t like to dehorn calves.

“When these cattle first came to America 150 years ago, we simply looked at them to determine whether it was a good bull or not, and today we have all this data to better describe genetic merit, with much more accuracy than ever before.”

“Today our database is probably our most valuable resource. We have 1.2 million genotypes and over 82 million phenotypic records in our genetic evaluations today, describing our cattle. When these cattle first came to America 150 years ago, we simply looked at them to determine whether it was a good bull or not, and today we have all this data to better describe

genetic merit, with much more accuracy than ever before.” The evolution of this breed in America has been an amazing journey! **WR**

**EDITOR:** For more on George Grant’s life and contribution to the breed, check out this great video from the I Am Angus series at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJbkBqeBhq4>

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Forrest Lucas learned his work ethic in a cattle barn. When you look at the Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts; see Lucas Oil promotions at many NASCAR and Indy racetracks in America; watch a Professional Bull Riders event and see Lucas Oil signage on the chute gates; or buy various Lucas Oil products you might think it's owned by just another rich tycoon. You would be wrong.

"Forrest and Charlotte Lucas are truly humble, genuine people," says one of their associates with Lucas Cattle Company. Indeed, they are friendly and approachable at a level that surprises those who don't know them... yet.

"He's just a farm boy at heart," Charlotte says of



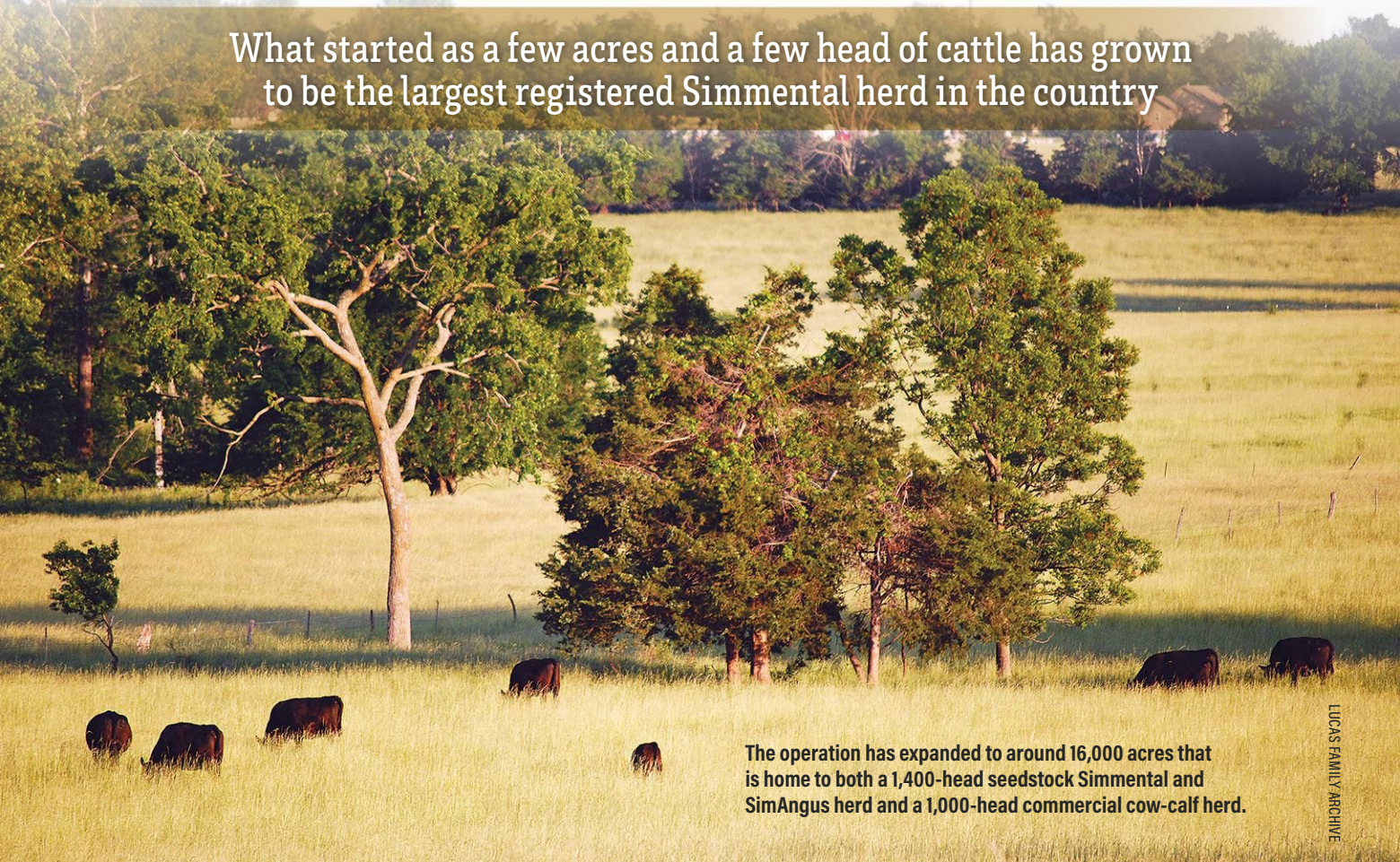
"He's just a farm boy at heart," Charlotte says of Forrest.

LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

**BY BURT RUTHERFORD**

# Lucas Cattle Company Leading the Way

What started as a few acres and a few head of cattle has grown to be the largest registered Simmental herd in the country



The operation has expanded to around 16,000 acres that is home to both a 1,400-head seedstock Simmental and SimAngus herd and a 1,000-head commercial cow-calf herd.

LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

Forrest. Long before he found himself up to his elbows in oil and grease, he worked showing and fitting cattle. “He missed a few weeks of school every year because he was showing cattle at the Kentucky State Fair or the Indiana State Fair,” she says.

Forrest says he started showing and fitting cattle when he was 12 years old. That job fell through when he was 15 and he went to work for another cattlemaster. “His wife, she was a real good cook,” Forrest remembers. When you’re a hard-working teenager, that counts for a lot.

So, they asked Forrest to live with them and manage the show cattle. “I stayed there for two years, until I got out of school, and showed cattle all summer long.” He traveled as far as West Virginia, taking a semi-load of cattle to shows. “That was the first time I drove a truck,” he says.

But life takes people in directions they never planned, and so it was with Forrest and Charlotte. The two are truly a team; they have worked side by side the entire time they have been together.

In their early years, they owned a small trucking company, which became the genesis of Lucas Oil. As their success with Lucas Oil shot upward, Forrest began recalling his teenage years working with cattle.

“He said, even then, they were breeding cattle for the wrong purposes,” Charlotte says. “They were breeding them for the show ring and not for the type of meat that you could ultimately get in the grocery store,” Charlotte remembers.

## RETIRING WITH A FEW ACRES AND A FEW HEAD

“So, when he decided to do this (get into ranching), he told me, ‘When I get ready to retire, I want to get a few acres and have a few head of cattle.’”

Remember, this is Forrest and Charlotte Lucas at the steering wheel. They bought their initial piece of ground in 2000 — 3,450 acres in western Missouri, roughly halfway between Springfield and Sedalia. Since then, the operation has expanded to around 16,000 acres that is home to both a 1,400-head seedstock Simmental and SimAngus herd and a 1,000-head commercial cow-calf herd.

# Meet WS Miss Sugar C4



**T**he genetic foundation for Lucas Cattle Company going forward is one of the most prominent and genetically superior cows in the Simmental breed. Forrest and Charlotte bought Miss Sugar in 2023 for what is likely a record price for a female.

With Miss Sugar at the genetic forefront of their extensive embryo transfer program, Lucas Cattle Company aims to produce curve-bending bulls. “We’re using her and some of her daughters along with other donor cows to try to accomplish the genetic spread with low birth weight, high growth, high marbling, high cow retention, high API (All-Purpose Index), and high TI (Terminal Index),” Forrest says.

For the Simmental breed, the API index identifies cattle with the genetics to produce strong maternal and stayability traits. The TI index identifies cattle with the ability to produce calves well-suited to the carcass and feedyard performance.

“She has the curve-bending type of genetics we’re looking for,” Forrest says. “She’s in the top 10% for 13 genomically important traits along with being in the top 1% for marbling, API, and TI. She is a standout in the breed and can do everything we’re working towards. And that’s what we’re trying to do with the entire herd.”

And the best is getting better. When you look at a seven-year-old cow (as this was written) her genomics usually don’t change very much, Forrest observes. The accuracies are pretty well set. “But she recently went up \$5 on the API index and that’s not very common. She’s right up there at 190,” he says.

“That makes Sugar a unique outlier for our herd,” he says. “Sugar’s elite genomic profile along with her flawless phenotypic style makes her a valuable cornerstone for our breeding program going forward. So, we’re trying to propagate those kinds of genetics.”

Lucas Cattle Company is now the largest registered Simmental seedstock operation in the country. Depending on what their bull buyers are looking for, they offer everything from half-blood SimAngus up to purebred Simmental. Using genomically-enhanced EPDs, they focus on keeping birth weights in check, while maintaining solid growth, marbling, and maternal traits.

Achieving a positive genetic mix of those traits is tough. For example, keeping birth weights acceptable yet achieving strong weaning and yearling weights are antagonistic

traits. “It’s the curve-bending type of genetics we’re trying to accomplish,” according to Forrest. “We’re trying to be a leader.” His goal is to achieve the genetics that breeders with smaller herds want to achieve, yet don’t have all the resources to do so.

Lucas Cattle Company gets that done by being large enough to do everything in-house. “A lot of top breeders work with multiplier herds,” Forrest says. “We don’t have to do that. It’s all right here on the same farm.”

In addition to stressing genomically-enhanced EPDs, the operation recently moved heavily into embryo

# Leading the Way

transfer. That began with the purchase of WS Miss Sugar C4, one of the all-time high-ranking females in Simmental history.

Geneticists talk about economically important traits versus convenience traits. In Forrest's mind, one is just as important as the other. "One thing about our cattle," Forrest says. "They've got real good attitudes." Beyond disposition, they look for good feet and legs and good udders. "Those are the things we have concentrated on since we first started," Forrest says.

From a management perspective, Lucas Cattle Company has its registered and commercial herds split into both spring and fall calving seasons. "We try to get our calving season down to 45-60 days if we can," Forrest says. "We do our embryo work along with our AI program first, then the bulls get kicked out around Thanksgiving for the fall calvers, and around the first of May for the spring calvers.

Replacement heifers are selected based on both visual appraisal and EPDs. They'll keep



One of the ways that Charlotte and Forrest Lucas are giving back is through *Protect The Harvest*.

LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

## Protect The Harvest

One of the ways that Charlotte and Forrest Lucas are giving back is through *Protect The Harvest*, an organization founded because of a Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) incursion into Missouri politics.

Forrest got a call from one of his cowboys asking if it was OK to hang some signs on the fence. As the cowboy explained what HSUS was up to, Forrest became alarmed. Then he went into action. On the surface, the 2010 legislation was about puppy mills. "What they wanted to do is to stop people from having any kind of ownership of an animal," Charlotte says. While Forrest jumped in only two weeks before the election and was significantly outspent by HSUS, the effort to put a plug in the legislation worked.

HSUS came back in 2011 with the same effort, but this time Forrest and others were ready. They killed that effort as well. Once Forrest knew what animal owners were up against, he decided to fight back on a national scale. "About two days after the election, he comes back to the house," Charlotte remembers. "And he says, 'By the way, honey, I started a 501 (C) 3.'"

And in 2011, *Protect The Harvest* was born. According to Mike Martin, the group's chief communications officer, the mission is based on a three-pronged approach — informing people about the true agenda of animal rights and anti-agriculture extremists; protecting the freedoms and way of life that supports agriculture, land use, hunting and fishing, animal ownership and animal welfare; and responding to laws, regulations, and misinformation that would negatively impact animal welfare and animal ownership, restrict rights and limit freedoms.

"What we are doing and continue to do is better inform people who don't know about (animal rights extremists), so they can make informed decisions at the ballot box," Martin says. "It's all about what we call 'A Free and Fed America.'"



LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

around 200 registered heifers and around 150 commercial heifers. “We use highly selected herd sires because we know, with AI, it would take an army to try to AI that many cows. So we do the embryo work, AI, then run the herd bulls after that,” Forrest says.

### MARKETING CALVES

The commercial herd is managed much the same as the registered herd in terms of calving season and other aspects. When it comes to marketing, however, they’re in a unique partnership with Purina. “Purina has a research station, and we send a lot of calves up there for Purina to do testing,” Forrest says. That provides them with carcass data, “which is good when you’re talking about sire evaluation.”

A good portion of the commercial calves go to a sale barn in nearby Windsor, Missouri, and then they’ll retain ownership on some and feed them out. While that provides important data, their long-standing relationship with Purina has been the proving ground on sire groups, genetic advancement, and other aspects of honing their program to a fine edge.

### PASTURE MANAGEMENT

“This is Missouri, so it’s fescue,” Forrest says. That’s a bittersweet thing because endophyte-infected fescue can cause lots of problems with fescue toxicity if it gets too mature. “But the good thing about fescue, it will grow in cold weather a lot better than anything else in the world,” Forrest says. “When you need it, it’s there. It’s hardy, it’s tough.”

But Forrest has always been curious, always looking for ways to do things better. So, he contacted several agronomists at the University of Missouri-Columbia to work with them to improve their grazing management by improving the forage. Long-term, the results of that collaboration could help other beef



“One thing about our cattle,” Forrest says. “They’ve got real good attitudes.”



What started as a few acres and a few head of cattle has grown to be the largest registered Simmental herd in the country.

# Leading the Way

producers improve their fescue as well. Beyond just the research results, Lucas Cattle Company will eventually host field days and tours to show others how the research works under production conditions.

The ranch isn't all fescue pastures, however. There are plenty of acres with other cool-season grasses along with legumes in the mix, which produces hay and haylage, as well as late-season grazing. "A lot of ground that's just really good for cattle to roam around on," as Forrest puts it. "A lot of hills and a lot of creeks."

However, of all the quality cattle that call Lucas Cattle Company home, it's their small Longhorn herd that impresses many the most. According to Forrest, unless visitors come to the ranch specifically to look at the registered cattle, it's the Longhorns that take the spotlight. "Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, our Longhorns," he says. "They (non-cattle visitors) don't pay attention to the black cows. Everybody will stop and take pictures of those Longhorns."



Forrest and  
Charlotte Lucas.

LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE

Among the many things that are part of the Lucas business holdings is a golf course. Yet neither Forrest nor Charlotte plays golf. The ranch, Charlotte says, is their version of golf. It's where they go to relax and recharge.

And it's not just some of the best cattle in the country grazing lush, green pastures. It's the entire ranch with its abundant wildlife. Beyond

the white-tailed deer and wild turkeys, Charlotte particularly enjoys watching the eagles. "We have a little bit of every kind of animal on the ranch," she says, "and it's fun to just drive around and see." **WR**



LUCAS FAMILY ARCHIVE



"Purina has a research station, and we send a lot of calves up there for Purina to do testing," Forrest says. That provides them with carcass data, "which is good when you're talking about sire evaluation."





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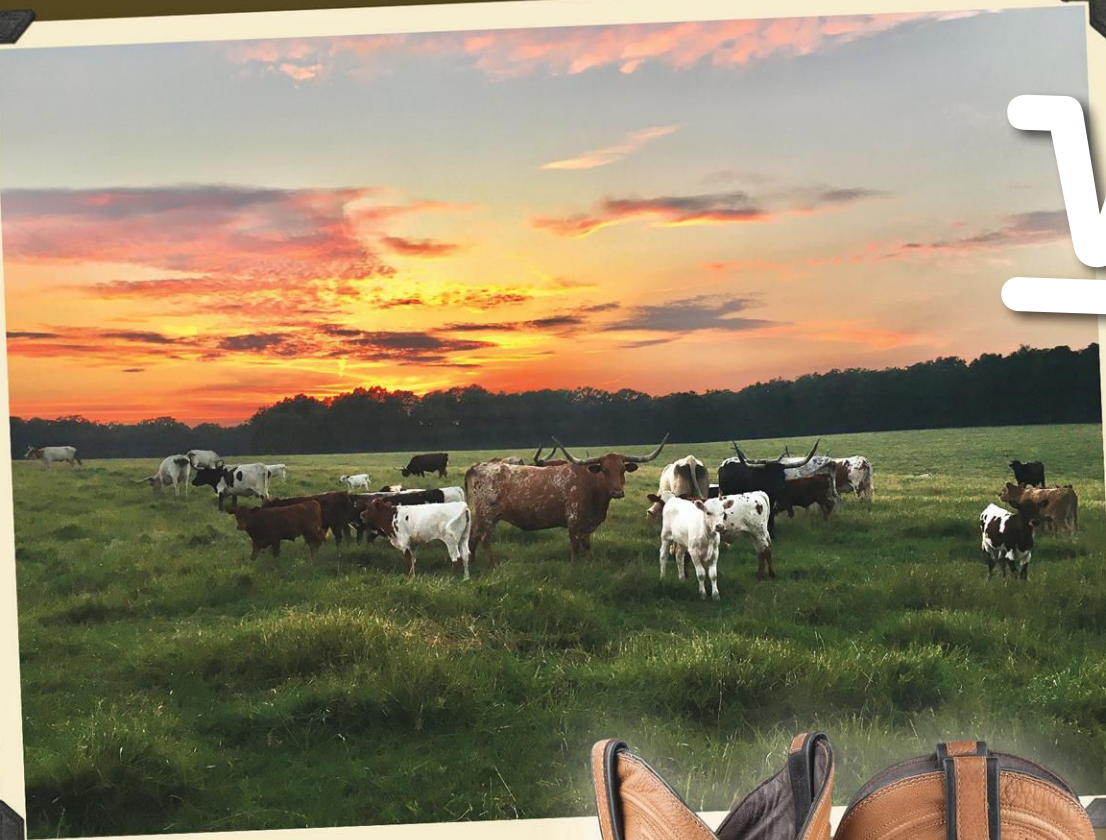
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# WORKING RANCH

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**WR**



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**A task force is working to capture value for commercial producers of Charolais-influenced cattle**

# White Gold

**BY SHARLA ISHMAEL**



**T**here aren't too many scenes that'll make a commercial cattle producer – and their banker – prouder than looking at a growthy, stout, smoky calf standing almost as tall as his black or baldie mama. The picture can change depending on the location of the ranch – he might be looking at the same scale-busting calf next to a good tiger-striped mama down south.

Either way, producers have long known that capitalizing on the magic of heterosis compounded with the use of a terminal-breed sire is a profitable way to max out the scales at weaning, as yearlings or fat cattle. With the nation's Jan. 1 beef cow inventory hitting one of the lowest numbers seen in recent history due to widespread drought, it is more important than ever for the commercial rancher to take advantage of a bullish market predicted for calves and feeders over the

next few years.

With a much smaller herd and the need to go slow with restocking as the land recovers from drought – hopefully before the next one hits – every pound will count. Unfortunately, the market is set up today based on premiums for black-hided cattle and given that the cattle cycle has been in the heavy-supply stage, where every segment after the ranch has enjoyed the ability to be choosy, it has meant good cattle of all colors don't always get sold for the value they bring to the industry at every stage.

It's a problem Charolais seedstock producers are not willing to deal with any longer. So much so that the American-International Charolais Association has created a task force of progressive breeders and outside consultants to explore every possible opportunity to make sure their commercial bull buyers get additional or new market access for their calves.

## **CARCASS VALUE NEEDS TO BE REFLECTED IN LIVE MARKET**

“Numerous closeout sheets from Charolais-influenced cattle harvested at Tyson plants in the past two years document these cattle produce carcasses that compete extremely well on the rail,” says AICA Executive Vice President Clint Rusk. “It is imperative that this carcass value be reflected in the live market.”

Charolais breeders are not alone in their quest to fix the problem.


“Our task force is already working with another task force led by Tom Brink, chief executive officer of the Red Angus Association of America, to explore a change in the way feeder cattle are marketed,” Rusk explains. “Our Charolais breeders agree with those who say feeder cattle should be marketed on their genetic merit rather than the color of their hide.”

Last year, Brink released an important white paper with results of a survey of feedlot managers that shows they also see a great need for change in the feeder cattle market. When asked if black-hided feeder cattle are superior to non-black cattle of equal weight, sex and health history, 75% disagreed with that statement.

In fact, 92% of the survey participants agreed or strongly agreed with this statement: “For the beef industry to continue improving its overall cattle quality and value, hide color should be replaced with more objective genetic criteria as a key price-determining factor(s) in the U.S. feeder cattle market.”

What will it take to make those changes so smoky or cream-colored calves can get premiums for their performance? For the Charolais task force, all options are on the table, from feeder cattle marketing programs, better utilization of existing grids for Charolais-influenced cattle, data gathering from private sources to solidify how these cattle excel in terms of feed efficiency, average daily gain and overall performance at the feedlot and packer in terms of both red meat yield and quality grade on the rail.

They are working on getting Charolais-influenced cattle into the latest sustainability research projects to study their efficiency advantages relative to other breeds. If carbon



Charolais breeders are working to ensure Charolais-influenced cattle like these, which are proven to be highly efficient in the feedyard as well as profitable on the rail, get the premiums their performance deserves.

# White Gold

capture and greenhouse emissions play a role in the future of beef, breeders on the task force believe the breed's natural efficiency and performance will be a competitive advantage in that arena.

The task force has met with major packing company executives to determine how Charolais-influenced cattle are perceived on their end and what the association can do to help increase demand for the cattle at the retail level. They've also initiated discussions on private branding with meat marketing experts.

Basically, these breeders are reaching out to every segment of the industry to lay groundwork leading to a premium structure for Charolais-influenced cattle at the commercial level. Charolais-influenced cattle are already well-liked in the industry. Ranchers appreciate the cattle for their performance, feeders love them for their efficiency and packers value their cutability, ability to grade Choice or better, as well as putting more product in the box. The task for these seedstock folks is to find ways to capture the real-world value of Charolais-influenced calves.

## PACKERS "GET IT"

Marcine Moldenhauer is one of the industry experts AICA has tapped to advise the task force. She has experience both as a breeder of Charolais, Red Angus and Maine-Anjou, 25 years in cattle procurement as a cattle buyer, strategic supply manager and leading the premium sales and marketing team for a major packer. For the last 15 years as owner of Meat Link Management, LLC, her livestock and meat business consulting firm, she has worked with multiple companies in multiple countries, breed associations, chefs and specialty fed cattle beef programs on the challenges and how to approach creating and



supplying a branded beef program.

"Packers know the value of Charolais-cross cattle, they do cutting tests, they track performance, they know," she explains. "They know Charolais-cross are going to yield from live to carcass and from carcass to the box; the packers know these cattle have very favorable quality grades with low yield grades. They know these cattle are a good value. However, because over the last 10 years or so there have been plant closings and increased supply, the packers have simply not had to pay more for these types of cattle."

For years, USDA has only recognized "Angus" as 51% black hided, those cattle that are percentage Angus (red or black), have not been accepted into "Angus" brands, such as black-nosed Charolais or the blonde-hided cattle. Moldenhauer believes in order to compete with that, it's necessary to cultivate either a foodservice, retail or a small restaurant partner – better yet one of each – that understands the value and sees

an opportunity for them.

"This is why Cargill, for one, created their Sterling Silver brand over 25 years ago," she adds. "The other challenge is to create multi-tiered brands where Charolais-cross cattle that are USDA Select or higher all have a home in a branded beef program. You want multiple programs for the Charolais-influenced cattle to go into. The reality is the packer is not going to find your customer for you, that will be the breed's job."

## BREEDERS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

One of the breeders on the task force is Brett DeBruycker of Montana, who says the Charolais association is up for the challenge.

"We're being very aggressive in fleshing out the different opportunities," he says. "I think the association is refocusing on what is most important to our business, and that is the commercial cattle producer. I'll admit we fell behind in promoting what our breed can do."

**[LEFT]** Packers value Charolais-influenced cattle for their cutability and ability to grade Choice or better while putting more beef in the box. The AICA task force is working with every segment of the industry to lay the groundwork for a premium structure for these cattle based on genetic merit rather than hide color.

“For instance, I have documentation that pink-nosed, straightbred Charolais cattle qualified for the following premiums in the summer of 2022. Steers received \$80/head and heifers received \$85/head on the U.S. Premium Beef grid. These cattle added value to the industry by grading and yielding well on the rail,” he adds.

“You’ve got to hand it to Angus, they were out helping packers sell meat, spending money as an association talking to retailers while we, as a breed, were focusing on breed improvement and adding value to our customers and the industry through increased performance, efficiency and carcass quality,” DeBruycker adds. “Hindsight being 2020, we should have been helping packers sell Charolais beef. One of the things I have learned on this task force is how vitally important it is for our breed to talk to consumers.”

A few years ago, he took a phone call from a gentleman from France who recently moved to Washington state. The man was very excited to have found DeBruycker Charolais online because he had been looking for Charolais beef since moving to the U.S. The man told him in France, Charolais is considered a delicacy and everybody there wants to eat it. DeBruycker says more U.S. consumers would share that fondness for beef from the white breed if they got a chance to taste it and know where it came from.


Mark Nelson is also advising the Charolais task force, and he too has seen the other side of the business having ran the Angus America program for Cargill for seven years. He says part of what the breed needs to keep its eyes on is being ready for the future, when the cattle cycle turns again and cattle numbers are on the rise.

“I think in the next five years, ranchers will benefit from high prices due to short supplies,” he says. “But we all

know those high prices won’t last. So, the breed needs to have something up and running on all cylinders by then so folks with Charolais-cross calves will be able to use them when they really need them. There is so much potential with this breed. Charolais is the kingpin of what they do. The cattle have really been begging for their breeders to do something like this because the cattle merit it.”

So, from a commercial perspective what does this mean for their

Charolais-influenced calves being born now? It means those white bulls in the pasture will bring home gold for you now by putting extra pounds on the scale when every pound is likely to be worth much more than it has been when cattle numbers were high. And, if the Charolais task force does the job it hopes to accomplish, you’ll have not just more pounds to sell in the future but also more premiums and demand for those high-performing calves. Stay tuned. **WR**



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# Equine Care Catalog

A list of products found in the pages of WR that will help to ensure the success of your working ranch horse program

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PRODUCT FUNCTION	PRODUCT NAME	COMPANY	MORE INFO	PRODUCT FORM
<b>Supplements / Feed</b>				
Omega 3-fatty acid supplement	HorsLic® Omega Elite	New Generation Feeds	breeding stallions, lactating mares, performance horses	low moisture tubs, bucket
vitamin, mineral supplement	Zinpro Minerals	Zinpro	effective trace mineral form for equine health & well-being	feeds & supplements with amino acid complexes
vitamin, mineral supplement	MLS #4 Equi Lix	Midcontinent Livestock Supplements	protein and mineral supplement	low moisture molasses tub
vitamin, mineral supplement	MLS #16 Equine Mineral	Midcontinent Livestock Supplements	highly fortified mineral supplement	low moisture molasses tub
nutrition feed	MLS #19 Equine Mineral	Midcontinent Livestock Supplements	highly fortified mineral and protein supplement	low moisture molasses tub
vitamin, mineral supplement	TUTTLE'S Liquid 747	Y-TEX Corporation	natural apple-flavored, molasses-based, energy	liquid top dressing
vitamin, mineral supplement	GROSTRONG®	ADM Alliance Nutrition®	for all classes of horses	granular, block, Quad Block, pellet, tub
nutrition feed	SENIORGLO®	ADM Alliance Nutrition®	senior horses, broodmares, working horses 4 and older	large, soft, easy to chew pellets
nutrition feed	PRIMEGLO™	ADM Alliance Nutrition®	mature horses	pellet
gastric health	ULCERGARD®	Boehringer Ingelheim	delivers targeted medication to prevent gastric ulcers	paste
nutrition feed	HEALTHY GLO™	ADM Alliance Nutrition®	high-energy fat supplement	meal or nugget (mini-pellet)
Plasma-Based Supplement	LIFELINE® + Equine	Stride Animal Health	serum-based proteins support lungs, gut, joints, immunity...	pellet
trace mineral feed/supplement ingredient	KemTRACE® Chromium	Kemin Equine	<a href="http://kemin.com/chromiumeq">http://kemin.com/chromiumeq</a>	dry ingredient
<b>Vaccines</b>				
anti-endotoxin vaccine	ENDOVAC-Equi®	Endovac Animal Health	intragluteal administration recommended	intramuscular injection
vaccine for EEE, WEE, WNV, Tetanus, EHV-1 & 4, EIV	VETERA® GOLD XP	Boehringer Ingelheim	for healthy equines over 4 mos, including pregnant mares	1 ml IM injection, booster in 3-4 weeks
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>				
intestinal health supplement	Bio-Sponge®	PLATINUM PERFORMANCE	gastrointestinal support feed additive	powder or oral tube paste
enzyme, probiotic feed additive	C-Tech® Health Factors	Cuprem	joint health, improved digestion of starch & plant matter	
dewormer	EQUIMAX®	Bimeda	broad spectrum larval and adult parasite control safe for all horses	oral paste
probiotic feed/supplement ingredient	CLOSTAT®	Kemin Equine	<a href="http://kemin.com/clostateq">http://kemin.com/clostateq</a>	dry ingredient
gut health feed/supplement ingredient	ButiPEARL® Z EQ	Kemin Equine	<a href="http://kemin.com/bpzeq">http://kemin.com/bpzeq</a>	encapsulated ingredient
<b>Treatment</b>				
NSAID, analgesic, antipyretic	Flunazine Paste	Bimeda	requires veterinarian prescription	oral tube paste
NSAID	Equioxx® (firocoxib) Tablet	Boehringer Ingelheim	controls pain/inflammation brought on by osteoarthritis	oral tablet
<b>More</b>				
Colostrum supplement	Premier Select Equine	La Belle Associates, Inc.	colostral support at birth or as a nutritional boost for mature horses	natural colostrum powder
fly trap	BITE FREE™ Stable Fly Trap	Central Life Sciences - Starbar	insecticide-free	sticky trap
vitamin, mineral supplement	American Stockman® Equine Micro 100®	Compass Minerals	<a href="http://americanstockman.com/equine100">americanstockman.com/equine100</a>	apple-flavored brick

**NOTE:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published in this handy chart. However, it remains the responsibility of the reader to study and understand the product information contained on the actual product label or package insert, and/or consult their veterinarian for clarification.



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# Passing On the Knowledge



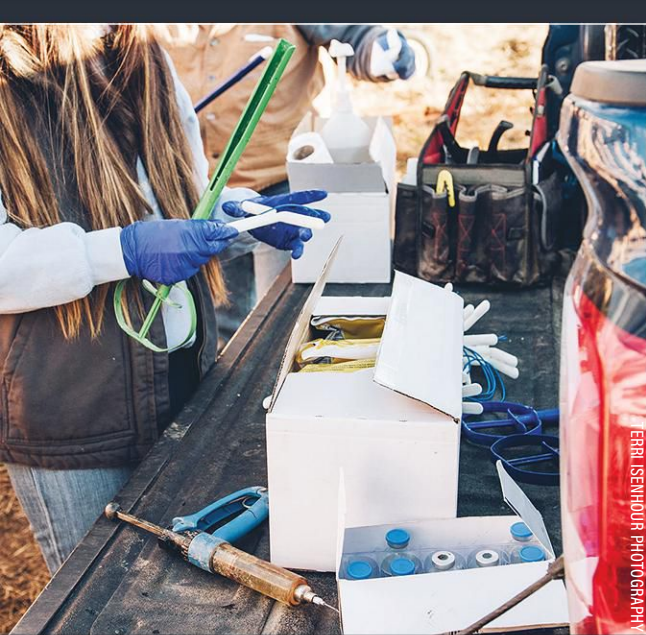
River Cherry is overseeing a youth student, Katie Saul, laying down one of the smaller calves to be tagged and vaccinated.



One of our favorite times of the year is fall cattle work and artificial insemination season. In this photo, you can see the cattle being gathered and sorting off calves before working them through. The primary protocol we use with this outfit is a 7-day estrous synchronization program.

TERRI ISENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

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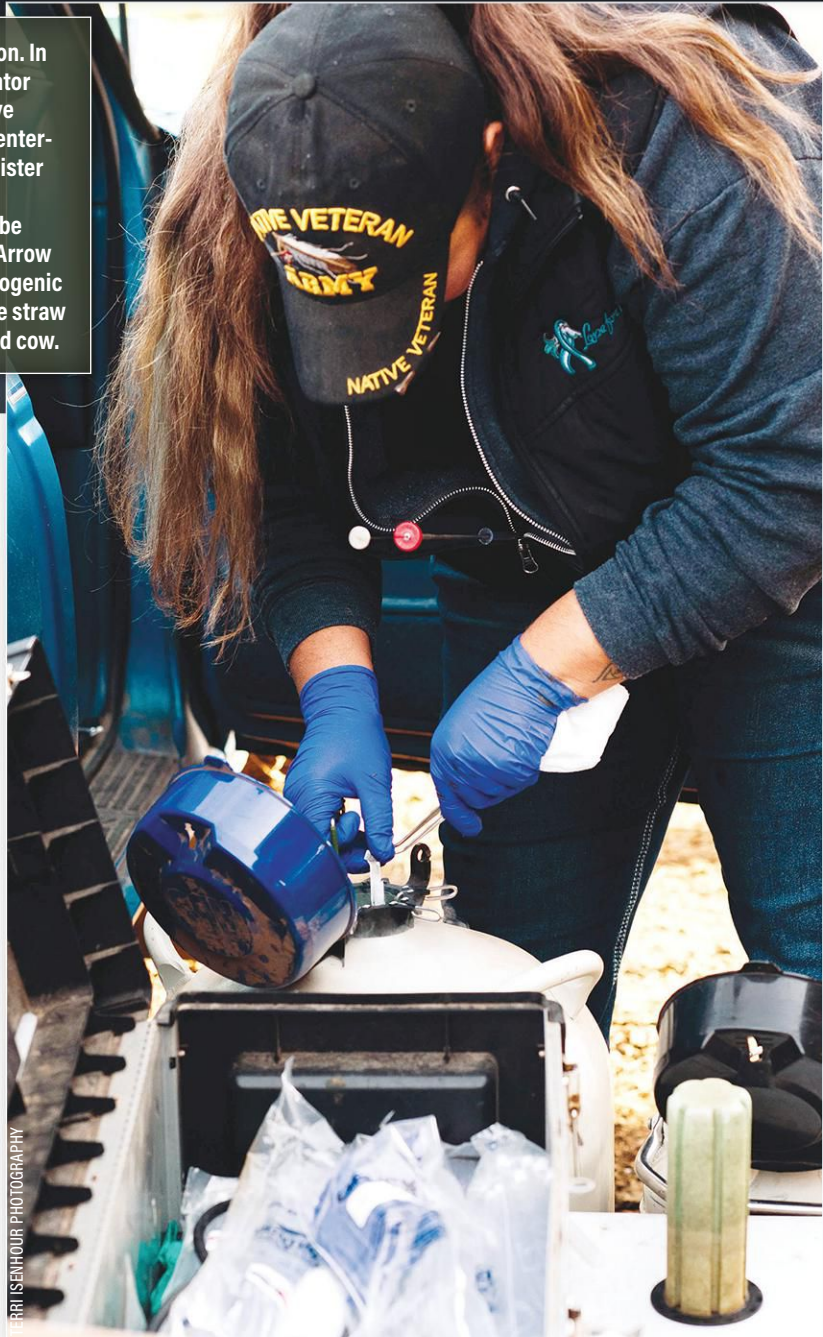
(ABOVE) On the first day the cow receives an insert and an injection. In this photo, we have one of our student helpers loading the applicator and preparing the injections. (ABOVE RIGHT) In this photo we have Shiloh Bates, co-owner of Broken Arrow Livestock Solutions, LLC entering the chute/ palpation cage to apply the cattle insert and administer the injection. After 7 days the cattle insert will be removed, a heat detector patch applied at the tail head, and another injection will be administered. (RIGHT) Jamie Bates, Veteran co-owner of Broken Arrow Livestock Solutions, LLC, is selecting the correct semen in the cryogenic tank for the next cow in the alley. Once she selects the appropriate straw she will carefully thaw, load the applicator, and breed the intended cow.

## This veteran co-owned outfit fills a community void

**B**roken Arrow Livestock Solutions LLC is a family and veteran co-owned and operated livestock management service in Central Virginia. We offer a wide variety of services including artificial insemination, cow-catching, hauling, herd management, darting, portable cattle equipment rental, consulting, and a few educational programs. We are frequently hired by local veterinarians, law enforcement agencies, farmers, and property owners.

A primary focus is teaching low-stress handling techniques, properly reading, and working with the flow of cattle. Our educational programs and clinics are offered to youth, hobby, and small and large-scale producers. Our mission is to fill a void in our community with knowledgeable, experienced, and reliable livestock management services.

We're proud of being a valuable resource to help increase productivity and profitability as humanely and safely as possible. Perhaps most important, with 60 being the average age of beef producers, passing on ranching knowledge to future generations. **WR**



TERRI ISENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

# Passing On the Knowledge

In addition to tagging and vaccinating we are castrating a bull calf in this shot.



TERRI ISENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

Adelene Cherry is an active-duty Marine that works for Broken Arrow Livestock Solutions in her free time. She is heeling some calves to be tagged and vaccinated.



TERRI ISENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY



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Dr. Melinda McCall, DVM of Louisa Vet Service is using a portable ultrasound machine to pregnancy check each cow to ensure a viable pregnancy. Two of our students, Colton and Victoria, are taking advantage of the opportunity to learn about the process as well.

TERRI SENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

**BROKEN ARROW**  
LIVESTOCK SOLUTIONS



TERRI SENHOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

Our Broken Arrow Livestock Solutions, LLC family and team. Front from Left to right - River Cherry (top hand), Adelene Cherry (Active Duty US Marine), Jamie Bates (US Army Veteran Co-owner), Shiloh Bates (Co-owner), Shaylea Bates. Back Row Left to right - Colton Bates and Victoria Lamb

BY JAIME PULLMAN

# Decision Precision

The beef industry has been using economic indexes for multiple-trait selection for decades. Weighting EPDs with economic value yields a number that producers can use to estimate the dollar value of an animal — and improve net profit.

While these numbers are valuable, they don't represent the all variables in play or the multi-generational impact of bull selection. This is even more true for operations that retain replacement females.

That's one reason researchers from several universities and USMARC scientists created iGENDEC, the web-based decision-making software that allows producers to create a more targeted version of indexes for their unique operational situations and goals.

"It's not the belief that current indexes aren't valuable, rather, those commercial producers that do have

more knowledge about their unique situations, we may be able to help them refine their decisions," Dr. Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Beef Genetics Specialist and leader of the research and extension team that put iGENDEC together said during a demonstration of the software.

In October 2022, the Beef Improvement Federation announced the release of iGENDEC, which is the industry's first web-based software for building custom selection indexes.

The index-based selection was first suggested in a 1947 paper by LN Hazel. The index processes link the importance of each trait relative to the breeding goal while considering genetic correlations. The economic EPD is the result. However, the values are generalized and built on particular production assumptions.

"Economic indexes published by breed associations are very useful

## Now there's a web-based tool to help in your long and short-term custom selection indexes

tools but they are generalizations, useful but not completely descriptive of the unique situation of each producer. They don't take into account variations in the breed of cows, cow age distribution, cost of feed, average sale price of calves, and average calf performance that can vary between producers. The iGENDEC web-based tool uses input from the user (producer) to help parameterize the formation of a user-specific economic index that weights relevant EPD by their economic importance," says Dr. Spangler.

### BUILT FROM SCIENCE

Funded by a grant from the USDA, the iGENDEC software was built using genetic parameters from scientific literature, USMARC breed means, and

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**iGENDEC**  
BIF iGENDEC IMPLEMENTATION

This release of iGENDEC is an enhanced version of the original open source iGENDEC project released under the MIT open source license. Sponsored and operated by the Beef Improvement Federation, this BIF iGENDEC implementation is supported by fees collected from subscribers to this service. While virtually all of the people involved in supporting the BIF iGENDEC are volunteers there are still costs involved to provide this service. These nominal fees are primarily used to support the costs of the co-located computer system and system maintenance. For further information about this service please contact mspangler2@unl.edu

To apply to use BIF iGENDEC please click on Register in the upper right.

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# Beef Improvement FEDERATION



heterosis information from USMARC and literature.

A unique feature of the software is the inclusion of consideration for discounted gene flow, discounted

expression, and planning horizon. Discounted gene flow considers the impact of your bull selection decisions on his offspring as well as his grand offspring, and how with each generation

that impact is halved. Discounted expression is the idea that in first-generation improvements of some traits, such as weights, are visible right away while others, such as stayability, take



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# Decision Precision

years to become obvious. Finally, the planning horizon is the amount of time for the decision impact you want to consider. A short horizon would make sense for a fully terminal situation with no retained replacement, while a horizon of multiple decades would be appropriate for producers retaining replacement females.

Also accommodating breeding objectives, operation details like herd size, and expected heterosis make the results of the iGENDEC index more personal to each user. The resulting profit is essentially a value of profit per exposure.

“The output is the economic value for each trait in the index,” says Spangler. The user “can then apply the index to a group of bulls with available EPD that have been supplied by a seedstock producer or breed association and download the list of bulls, their EPD, and the customized index and sort it to their liking.”

The software also produces profit differentials, making sale decisions more straightforward.

“That way a producer can go to a sale with a list of bulls that they’re interested in, knowing those bulls offer more profit potential, and by how much,” says Spangler. “They can also decide if the difference in sale price between bulls is equal to, more, or less than the difference in the profit potential between the bulls.”

With all the details producers need to juggle, that can be a helpful decision-making aid.

When using iGENDEC and other indexes in general, however, it’s important to remember the breeding goal and production scenario have to match for each particular index so that the results will be useful and applicable.

## AVOID THE BIG MISTAKE

“When making selections within or across herds, EPDs and Selection Indexes should be the focus for genetic improvement as they correct the phenotypes for known environmental effects and differences in the

## Software

**Want to sit down with the software?** You’ll get the most out of it if you have some information handy, including your sale endpoint, index type, target database, breeding season information, average conception rate, calving loss rate, average cow age distribution, and herd breed compositions, and phenotypic means of calve sale price cwt (revenue), and herd costs per animal.

The inclusion of breed compositions is important because the software can account for heterosis, the degree to which would be different for a F1 calves than for a purebred based on what breed composition is associated with phenotypic means.

You don’t have to have all of this information to use the software, but the more you have, the more honed the results will be for your specific situation.

environment through contemporary grouping,” explains Dr. Bob Weaber, extension specialist from Kansas State University, Executive Director of the Beef Improvement Federation, and another on the iGENDEC development team.

Producers should carefully select which single index to utilize in their operation. Misalignment of the selection index (determined by a market endpoint) against your operation is a costly mistake. For example, if you’re using a terminal index for bull selection that heavily weighs carcass merit and growth and has no maternal trait weightings when your operation sells calves at weaning and keeps replacement heifers would be a big mistake. Make sure the index is aligned with your breeding and marketing objectives.”

And while indexes can aid bull selection, they are a profit tool rather than one for breed improvement.

“Economic selection indexes most certainly enable multiple trait selection towards improvement in net profit. I think it’s important to understand that economic selection indexes should be designed to select for increased commercial level net profit and they are not meant to be a tool to provide direction, if you will, to a given breed,” said Dr. Spangler in the demo. “All too often I find confusion about that. A breed organization may say, well we want to focus on breed improvement and need a tool for that. And that very well could be completely different than the discussion about forming an economically rational index meant for commercial producers to use to enhance profit

to their enterprise.”

When it comes to profit-driven decision-making, particularly for multiple trait selection, indexes have a history to support them. Adding the nuances of your operation to an internet-based system like iGENDEC makes that economic information more closely match your situation — and that much more valuable.

According to Dr. Spangler, there are currently more than 30 iGENDEC users, including several beef breed associations, extension educators and specialists, seedstock producers, commercial cow-calf producers, and classroom instructors. The program can be used by anyone but is intended for commercial and seedstock sellers and seedstock buyers. It’s useful to have a firm understanding of beef cattle genetics, and how indexes work, to get the most out of it.

The software is free for extension and educators and designers hope that the program will also be used as a teaching tool. For regular users, there is a fee for access, with a reduced rate for BIF members. There is also a 30-day free trial opportunity.

Not sure you want to try using the software yourself? Talk to your breed association, extension service, or seedstock vendor—they may already be working with it.

To learn more about iGENDEC and if the tool would be useful for you, check out the Beef Improvement Federation’s website at <https://beefimprovement.org/igendec>. Dr. Spangler’s demo of the software is also available on the site. **WR**

# Tom Perrier Family

NAMED 2023

## Stockman of the Year

**K**-State Livestock & Meat Industry Council recognized the Tom Perrier Family during the 52nd Annual Stockmen's Dinner on March 2, 2023.

Tom and his wife, Carolyn, (Graham) Perrier are fourth-generation ranchers in the Flint Hills. They were instrumental in implementing technologies such as performance recordkeeping, artificial insemination, expected progeny difference (EPD) use, and ultrasound evaluation since their return from military service in 1969.

As confusing as it appears, the names "Dale" and "Banks" are nowhere in the Perrier family pedigree. Robert and Alice Loy and their first three children homesteaded a farm three miles northwest of Eureka, Kansas, in 1867 and named their farm "Dalebanks" — the same name as their ancestral farm and region in their homeland of England.

Just like three generations of ancestors, Tom and Carolyn have always believed in giving back to their community and industry through service in various organizations. Carolyn has served and led her PEO Chapter, the Greenwood County 4-H Foundation, Upper Fall River Jayhawkers 4-H Club, the Greenwood Preservation Society, Greenwood County Cattlewomen, Entre Nous, Music Club, and the Sacred Heart Altar Society. Tom served as Kansas Angus Association president,

additionally, he served as a board member of the Greenwood County Fair Association, Eureka USD 389 School Board, Greenwood County Cattlemen's Association, Greenwood County Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, and the Fall River Watershed District. He also served two terms on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Their children have always been their true priority, and they are very proud of each of them.

Matt and Amy (Teagarden) Perrier and their children — Ava, Lyle, Hannah, Henry, and Hope live on the ranch. Amy is a part-time physical therapist, working in the local school, hospital, and rehabilitation clinic. She also advocates for the beef community through the Greenwood County Cattlewomen's social media platforms, in addition to her full-time roles as a ranch wife and mother. In addition to his managerial duties at Dalebanks, Matt recently finished his term as president of the Beef Improvement Federation and is a past president of the Kansas Livestock Association, Greenwood County Farm Bureau, and the Greenwood County Cattlemen's Associations. He

Tom and Carolyn Perrier and their family.



currently serves on the Kansas Health Institute and hosts a bi-weekly podcast, Practically Ranching.

Michele and Russ Callejo and their children, Luke and Alice, reside in Roseville, California. Russ serves as Deputy Regional Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Michele, who served in a variety of research roles in both the animal and human pharmaceutical fields, now cares for their children and volunteers with numerous community organizations in the area.

Mark and Kelly Perrier and their children, Lauren and Drew, live in Wichita, Kansas. Mark is a senior financial analyst for Rabo AgriFinance and Kelly is the Director of Deli and Retail Channel Grocery Sales for Cargill. **WR**

The Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry department serves students, livestock producers, and the animal and food industries through teaching, research, and education. The K-State ASI department prepares students for careers in the animal and food industries. The curriculum includes the study of nutrition, reproduction, genetics, behavior, meat science, and food science with production, management, and agribusiness skills. For more about K-State's ASI department visit [www.asi.ksu.edu](http://www.asi.ksu.edu).

# THE ANGUS TIMES

2023-2024 Edition Vol. 2

## WHAT ABOUT DOC?

HIS PROGENY ARE SALE TOPPING

**"I HAVE A DOC RYAN HEIFER THAT IS THE BEST CALF TO EVER WALK ON THIS PLACE!"**  
-TITUS SCHROCK

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## PRODUCERS RAVE ABOUT DOC RYAN PROGENY

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Schrock Doc 32 ~ Schrock's Angus Farms \$15,000 Doc Ryan record-seller!

Titus Schrock, owner of Schrock's Angus Farms in Brock, Nebraska, said "I sold the highest selling bull in the history of my farm for \$15,000. He was a Doc Ryan." Titus went on to explain that the Doc Ryan calves are some of his stand-outs, saying *"I have a Doc Ryan heifer that is the best calf to walk on this place."*

Schrock's experience isn't the only report to shout the excellence of Doc Ryan. John Mohnen of Mohnen Angus in White Lake, South Dakota says, *"The Doc Ryan calves, from an early stage, have lots of vigor, explosive early growth with tons of chest capacity, and depth of body."*



**“THEY HAVE A WOW FACTOR UNLIKE ANY OTHER SET OF CARCASS-BRED CALVES.”- ED RAITHEL**

Ed Raithel, manager of Herbster Angus Farms, says “They’ve exceeded all expectations and are very vigorous at birth. What surprises me the most is the amount of muscle and style the Doc Ryans have, and how easy they came. *They have a WOW factor unlike any other set of carcass-bred calves that I’ve seen.* The consistency we’ve seen when used on all cow types is awesome. There are no throwaways.” Raithel continued on to say, “We sold an \$85,000 son of Doc Ryan in our 2023 sale. Our customers love the Doc Ryan cattle. They averaged \$14,250. In addition, they carcass scan very well. We had a heifer scan over 11 on %IMF and that’s amazing. The Doc Ryans averaged 104 on IMF in our herd.”



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**“THE DISPOSITION ON DOC RYAN CALVES IS SECOND-TO-NONE, AND THE FERTILITY [OF THE SEMEN] WAS VERY GOOD FOR US.”**  
**- MARLON SCOTT**

Marlon Scott and his wife, Kelly, own and operate Scott Angus Cattle in Belgrade, Nebraska. Marlon said, “When I first saw Doc Ryan, I immediately knew how to breed to him. He is an improver. When used correctly, he will take the holes out of just about everything.” Marlon continued, “*Last, but not least, the disposition on his calves is second-to-none, and the fertility [of the semen] was very good for us.*”



**SAC Blackbird 2316 ~ This Doc Ryan daughter was the \$16,500 high-seller for Scott Angus Cattle, Nebraska.**

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# STATE-BY-STATE

A **WR** visit with your local cattle organizations...

BY KACY ATKINSON

FEATURING:

# Nebraska Beef Council

## INTERVIEW WITH ANN MARIE BOSSHAMER

**WR** What are some of your most successful programs?

**AB** The Beef Passport Program started in the summer of 2021. It was perfect for the time we were in, as it provided a way for consumers tired of being at home to get out and see Nebraska and eat beef. It allowed them to connect with local communities across our state, and promote beef while building those relationships and connections. We've evolved the program to include a digital passport, and other states are interested in joining in, which will help make it a lasting program, which is always a win.

Another success for us was putting the flat iron steak on the map. We did a "Cattle Crawl" when it was first created (around 2001), which was a progressive dinner pairing beef and wine,



and we were going to feature this steak no one had eaten. A journalist at the Omaha World Herald was unable to attend, so we set up a special tasting for her. She then wrote an article that ended up on the front page, which was then picked up by the AP, and eventually Peter Jennings at ABC World News Tonight. All that publicity really put the flat iron on the menu and gave it the start it needed to become the mainstream cut we have today.

**WR** What's an opportunity in the future that excites you?

**AB** For Nebraska, one of our overarching principles is that we strive to put the money where the people are. We're a cattle-rich/people-poor state, and so we look for ways to make a difference not only at the state level but the national level as well. If we can develop programs other states can benefit from, that excites us. Additionally, we may

not have big-time influencers here in Nebraska, but we can bring those individuals to our state and provide them with a top to bottom education of the beef industry in a day because there is no part of the chain we don't have here. We can still make an impact, even if we don't have the largest population, because we can help put our funds where people exist to make a difference for the entire industry. The opportunities we have to continue doing that in new ways are exciting.

**WR** What is the biggest challenge facing state beef councils?

**AB** Trying to determine the best way to reach producers to help them understand the benefits and the specifics of what the Checkoff is doing for them. We have producers who voted for the Checkoff back in the 80s, but we also have new producers who weren't even born when it was established. Some

## THE RUNDOWN

### Nebraska Beef Council

- Founded in 1973
- Ann Marie Bosshamer, Executive Director
- [www.nebeef.org](http://www.nebeef.org)







**(ABOVE LEFT)** Our state campaign has been embraced by many Nebraskans through an original t-shirt sales promotion where proceeds went to buy beef for the Food Bank of the Heartland. We do billboards, social media and more with this tagline that invokes pride and states clearly what Nebraska is all about. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** Foreign marketing is essential to our strategic plan and our work with USMEF and the NE Department of Agriculture has been an excellent promotion for beef from Nebraska. But it depicts a multigenerational family, which is another reason for us to have passion behind what we do so that generations can continue to raise beef and be stewards of the land.

producers know a lot about what it does, some know a little, but some know nothing about what those funds do. There are so many avenues to use to reach out, but trying to narrow down the most effective is challenging. And then balancing those that are very educated and don't want us telling them what we are doing because they already know and just want us focused on consumers versus needing to let those producers who are unfamiliar with our work know we are doing good things, it's a constant challenge we haven't quite figured out yet.



We are so proud of the Nebraska Beef Passport program and how it has taken off for us here in NE, and now it has the opportunity to be mirrored in other states! The Facebook group has been a wonderful way for consumers to connect with pictures like this and showcase the delicious beef being prepared at local NE restaurants.

**WR** *What's the biggest challenge facing the industry as a whole?*

**AB** There are many, but I would say its producers can continue to operate in the independent way they want but have to recognize the social and economic pressures that exist. We have to work together to promote not only our product but our industry and way of life. There is so much in the media we have to address, in addition to challenges like inflation and drought, plus the general public's attitudes about what we are doing. We have to work together and break down the silos we've built from our desire to be independent. We have to have a common denominator to bring us back together because we need consumer trust, and that will only come from us as a whole.

**WR** *Why do you believe Checkoff funds are important?*

**AB** I honestly believe they are one of the least expensive insurance policies



Our NBC Board of Directors is elected by producer peers in their district for a 4-year term. They can run again for another term, but after 8 years they are termed off and new leadership takes over. We are so thankful for these producers who give of their time and talents for the good of the industry and the Checkoff.

a producer will ever have. What we can do to reach the public every single day, and we've been doing it a long time now, no producer could do on their own. We've always been there for you, which allows you to focus on being busy on the farm/ranch. You don't have time to worry about what is being said on the news, but we monitor that every day and figure out how to respond in a way that will benefit

you. If we as the Checkoff don't play that role, who will? Be proud of what the Checkoff has done over the years, is doing now, and will continue to do in the future to answer public questions and meet demand. **WR**

*WR encourages producers to have a voice by being active and involved in an association that aligns with your needs and ideals.*



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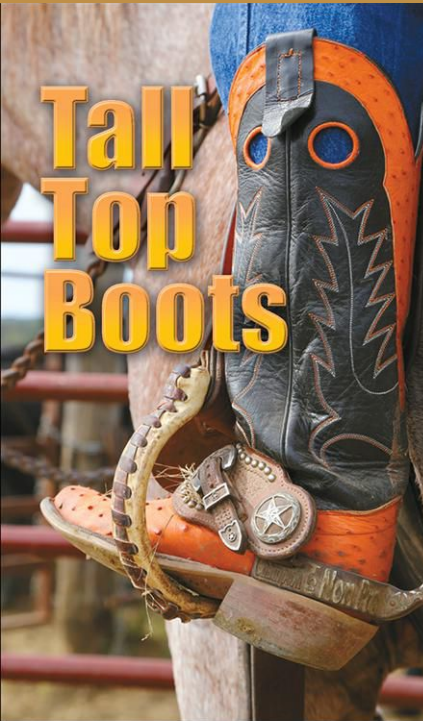
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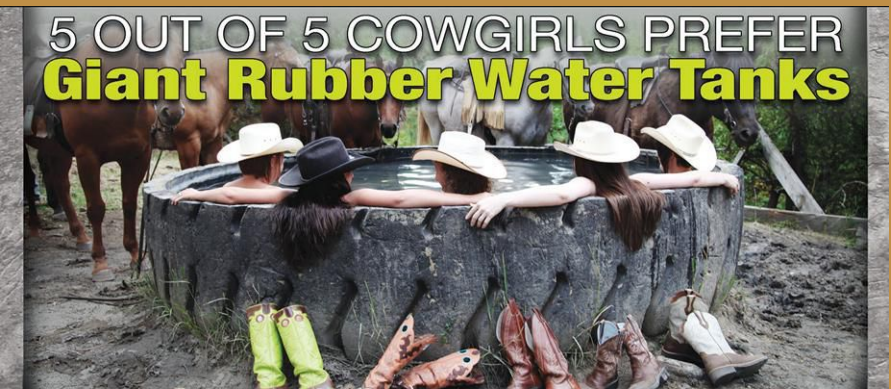
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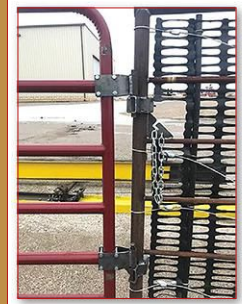


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# looking back

Continued from page 106  
it stuck with him for the rest of his life.

French worked hard and was soon promoted to foreman. Running out of new ground for his operation, Glenn was always searching for places to expand into other parts of the state. In 1872, he sent Pete and a group of vaqueros, along with a Chinese cook to move 1,200 shorthorn cattle north into the short-grass foothills and high desert country of the Steens Mountain area of Southeastern Oregon.

Arriving in the Catlow Valley, French set up operations and began to take stock of the country. In one of those rare twists of fate that sometimes prove lucky, he met a local rancher and prospector named Porter. Porter had squatter's rights on the west side of Steens Mountain, a small herd of cattle, and the registered brand "P." He wanted out of the business and readily agreed to sell everything to Peter French. The famous P Ranch and the beginning of the legend of Peter French, the Cattle King of Southeast Oregon, was born that day, on a chance meeting of two ranchers.

Within a few years, and with financial help from Doctor Glenn, French's operation began to evolve into a cattle empire. Parts of the land were swampy marshlands and French began to drain the marshy areas, fence large pastures, and began irrigation for native hay. In time, the operation expanded from the Catlow Valley into the Blitzen Valley and the Diamond Valley, covering thousands of acres.

French, a sharp businessman by anyone's measure, made use of a law called the Swamp and Overflow Act. It allowed the unusable marshy areas to be purchased for the low price of \$1.25 an acre. To get the land at a low price, he built dams and flooded large areas of land so he could get the lower price, then removed the dams to restore the dry land to its original condition after he had the title.

All of his employees were instructed to file claims for homesteads that he would then buy back from them. His

constant drive for more land got him in trouble more than once for trying to fence in the public domain. French went after every acre he could find, forcing smaller landowners and settlers into a permanently defensive position. After years of growing his empire by any means necessary, he became not only the Cattle King of Southeast Oregon but the person nobody liked doing business with. His tactics were ruthless and nobody understood that better than Ed Oliver, who had been at war with the cattle king for years.

Pete French married Doctor Glenn's daughter Ella in 1883. By another strange twist of fate, Doctor Glenn was murdered by a former employee three weeks after the wedding. The heirs to the Glenn business turned the company into the French-Glenn Livestock Company, with Pete as president. Pete and Ella had one son, Harold Glen French, and he divorced Ella in 1891.

At the peak of French's business, he had from 150,000 to 200,000 acres. He ran as many as 6,000 horses and mules and 30,000 head of cattle. He was one of the first in the area to raise hay as feed and put it up for the winter.

Pete French was a wiry little man, standing only 5' 7" tall and weighing about 125 lbs. In June of 1878, he had a different kind of trouble when Paiute and Bannock raiding parties attacked the P Ranch, burning buildings, killing and running off horses and cattle, and on one raid, shooting his horse out from under him. French was fearless in

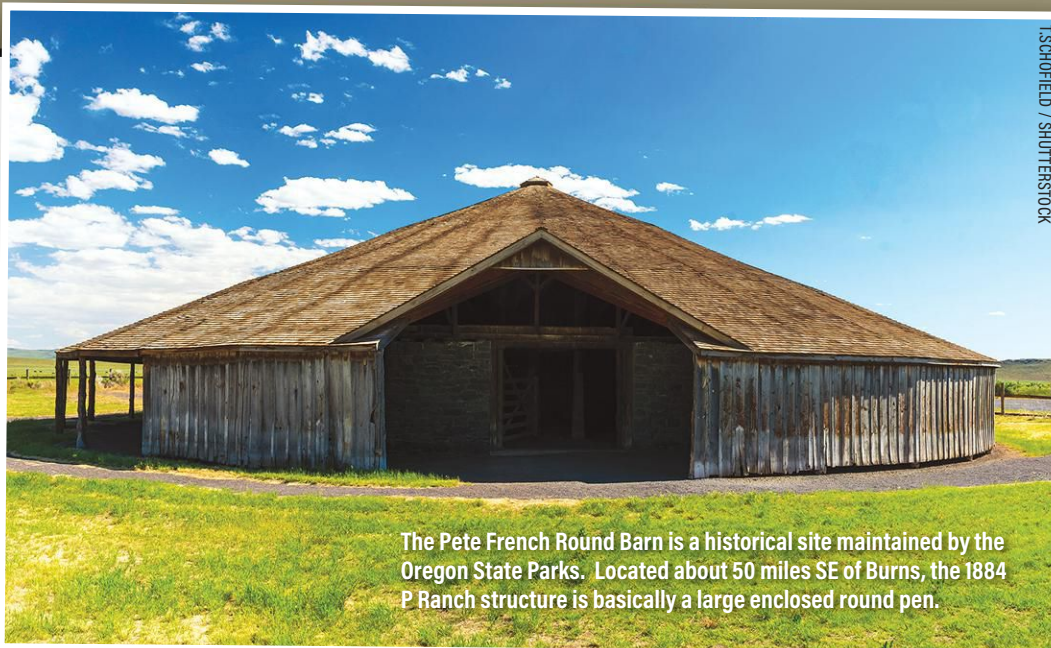
protecting his property, and the Indian raids were just part of doing business in this part of the country. What he didn't know was he had not yet met his toughest opponent, a small-time rancher named Ed Oliver.

Pete French's success led him to more and more harassment of the locals, and he filed what were called Ejectment lawsuits against many settlers in 1896 and 1897 in another attempt to get their land. If the locals didn't like him before, they positively hated him after this. The suits forced the settlers to travel to Portland and incur as much expense and inconvenience as possible on them.

Ed Oliver and other settlers had a long-running battle against French's effort to keep them off of public land. When he tried to cross the pasture he had been fighting for, he was accosted again by French. Ed Oliver had simply heard enough. He drew his gun and killed him, then rode home through the contested pasture.

Initially charged with murder, he pled not guilty and was bailed out on a \$10,000 bond put up by seven other local settlers. By the trial date, the charge had been reduced to manslaughter, and after a long trial with dozens of witnesses for the prosecution, and the fact that French had no gun on him during the incident, Ed Oliver was found not guilty by a jury of his peers. **WR**

Bert's email is: [westernimages@msn.com](mailto:westernimages@msn.com)



The Pete French Round Barn is a historical site maintained by the Oregon State Parks. Located about 50 miles SE of Burns, the 1884 P Ranch structure is basically a large enclosed round pen.

TSCHEHFIELD / SHUTTERSTOCK

# looking back

## Death On The P Ranch

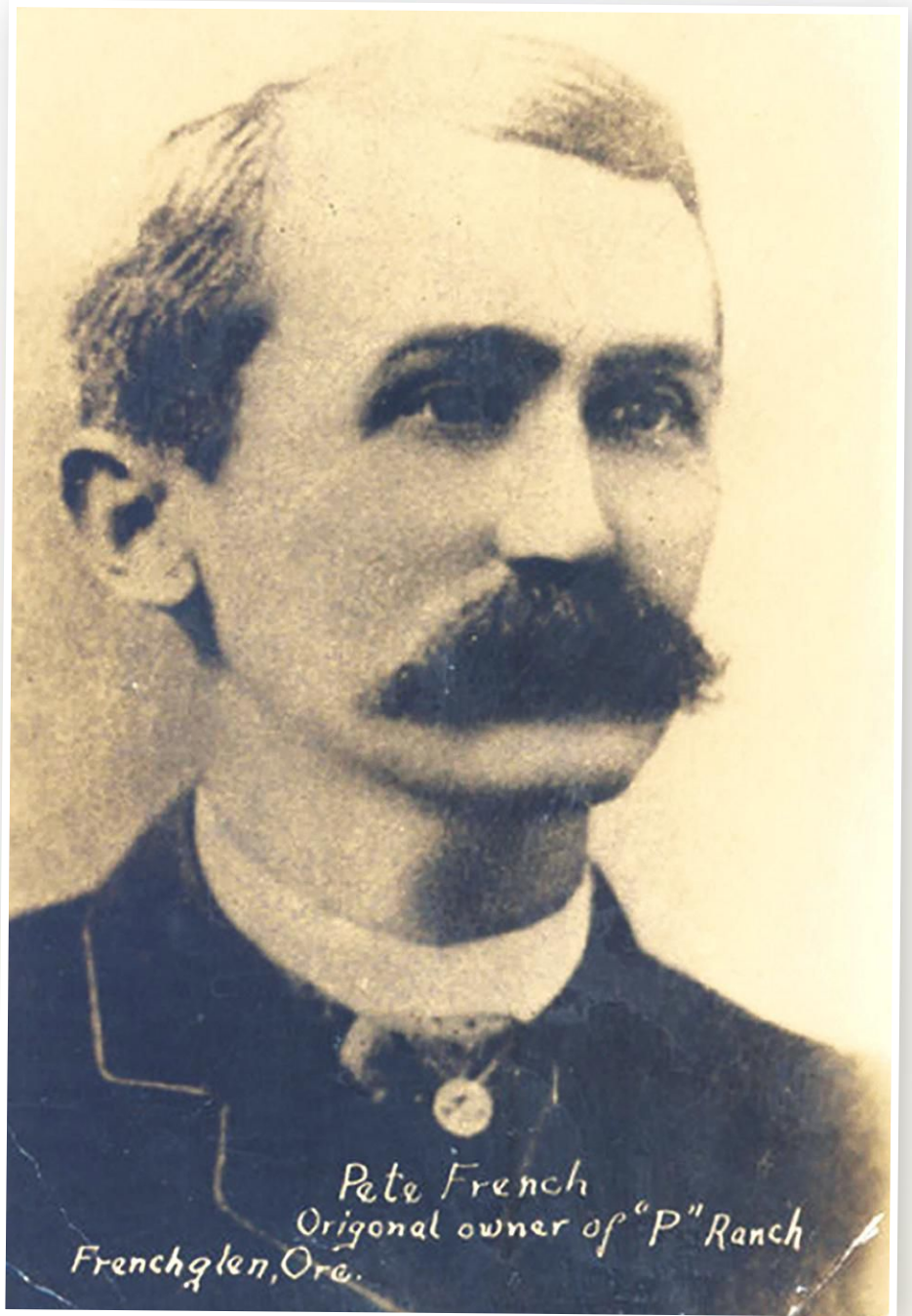
*The final hours of Cattle King Pete French*

**T**he day after Christmas in 1897, Pete French had been working horseback on his ranch rounding up a few head of cattle. As he opened a gate, he turned toward the road and spotted rancher Ed Oliver, a man he considered to be his worst enemy, about to ride into one of his pastures. French was immediately enraged and spurred hard, riding straight toward Oliver, crashing the two horses into each other.

After threatening Oliver and screaming at him to get off his land, he brandished a riding quirt. As his old adversary started to turn toward his home, French spun his horse around and looked at him again, continuing his taunts. Oliver pulled his pistol from his belt and fired at him. Pete French, the Southeast Oregon cattle king fell from his horse, dead from a bullet through his head. Ed Oliver stared down at the lifeless body for a moment, turned back to the road, and continued across the pasture to his house. The killing of Pete French shocked nobody in the valley or anyone he had ever done business with.

Born John William French, in Callaway County, Missouri on April 30th, 1849, his father, Marion, and his mother, Mary, moved to California, eventually settling in the Sacramento area. Marion started a sheep farm and within a few years became very successful. John, not caring for the boredom of living and working on a sheep operation, left to find his own place in the world.

Finding himself in the Jacinto area, he was hired on as a horse wrangler for



Doctor Hugh James Glenn, a well-established cattle rancher and wheat farmer. French took to the business quickly, meeting many vaqueros and

learning their language and customs. Somewhere about this time, John picked up the name Peter or Pete, and

*Continued on page 105*



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We were experiencing death loss of 2 or 3%. We thought we had a pretty robust vaccination protocol using brand name vaccines, modified lives, doing about everything you could do. Then Dr. Monty Kerley, from the University of Missouri, who I have the greatest respect for, and I got to know because of the BIF affiliation, put me on Endovac.

Dr. Kerley said **"That stuff really works and it's not only good on Salmonella but it also confers some feed efficiency."** So we added Endovac into our protocol of vaccinations. **We started using Endovac** when bringing in feeder cattle from different people as well as using it on our own. All I can tell you, and you're probably going to think I'm lying, but **now we only run about a quarter percent death loss, keeping them all natural the whole way through. We are audited by a third party for those claims.** We just don't have much illness. **This vaccine works!**

**We don't even think about not using Endovac... it works that well! We use it on our breeding herd and on the feeder cattle we buy from people. It's a great product and it's very cost effective.** I can't give you all the scientific explanations behind Endovac, but coupling it with all the other vaccinations we use, keeps our cattle healthy. We haven't had a problem with foot rot either... maybe one case in ten years. If it's card-carrying pinkeye, where they just randomly develop it without some kind of injury, we don't have it! What I understand is that the Endovac is an immune response booster and as a result of that, again, we're back to the bottom line. **We just have a ridiculously low problem with animal health since we've been using Endovac. It works! That's all I can tell you.** 🔗

- Steve Whitmire,  
Ridgefield Farm & Brasstown Beef



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**SUMMER 2023 ISSUE**



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#FarmStateOfMind

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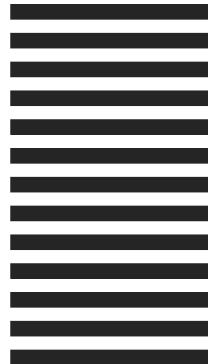


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